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VII

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T. MACCI PLAVTI MENAECHMI

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V

THE MENAECHMI OF PLAUTUS

WITH A TRANSLATION

BY

JOSEPH H. DRAKE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

NEW EDITION

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VII

PREFACE

THIS edition of the text and a translation of the "Menaechmi" of Plautus was put forth as a libretto to accompany a presentation of the play by students of the University of Michigan in 1890. That first issue is now exhausted, and advantage has been taken of the reprinting to make a few changes.

The Latin text remains substantially that given in Brix's edition, with slight modifications, made in accordance with evidence presented chiefly by Leo. A few fragmentary lines and one short passage have been omitted. In translating occasional phrases were borrowed from the translations by Thornton and Riley. Some help was received also from the various commentaries. The Introduction offers a few hints in regard to the play for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the original.

For the preparation of the new edition I am indebted to Dr. Gilbert H. Taylor, of the University of Michigan.

JOSEPH H. DRAKE.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN,
March 15, 1916.

INTRODUCTION

TITUS MACCIUS PLAUTUS, the author of the "Menaechmi," lived from some time before 251 to 184 B.C. He was born in Umbria, of poor but free parents. We may suppose that he went to Rome early in life to seek his fortune. At any rate, he is said to have been employed there in some service about a theatre. We are told by Gellius that he made a small fortune by stage decorating, but afterwards lost his money in speculation, and was compelled to work in a tread-mill for his daily bread. While engaged in this menial occupation, he wrote several plays, which brought sufficient fame and fortune to their author to enable him to devote himself for the rest of his life to the pursuit of his art.

Twenty of the comedies of Plautus are extant. They are all characterized by rollicking, broad fun. Plautus was the poet of the common folk, and portrays life in an unaffected, homely way. In accordance with the practice of Roman dramatists in his time, he borrowed the plots of his plays from the Greek. The Greek original of the "Menaechmi" is not known, but the preponderance of evidence seems to show that it was a comedy by Posidippus. The "Menaechmi" belongs to the class of comedies known as *fabulae palliatae*, that is, it retains the costumes and setting of the Greek play from which it was taken, embodying only enough of Roman manners and customs to make it intelligible

and interesting to the Roman audience. The inconsistencies that are of necessity present in plays thus made up do not seem to have been distasteful to the Romans.

The plot of the "Menaechmi" turns upon mistaken identity in the case of twin brothers. One of them, while still a child, had been stolen from his father and taken to Epidamnus; the other twin, when he arrived at manhood, came from Syracuse to Epidamnus in search of his brother. The two are constantly mistaken, the one for the other, by the friends of each, until in the last act the two happen on the stage together, and the mystery is solved. The plot is of special interest to the English reader, as having suggested that of Shakspeare's "Comedy of Errors." The "argument" preceding the text of the "Menaechmi" was probably not written by Plautus. It appears to have been added at a much later time, Ritschl thinks in the second century A.D.

There have been many translations and adaptations of the "Menaechmi" in modern times. R. Steinhoff gives no less than ten imitations in the Italian. The first of these, said to have been acted in 1486, was a translation entitled "Menechino di Plauto." Of the others mentioned, some are translations more or less literal, while some resemble the original mainly in the fact that they have plots bringing out striking resemblances between characters. In the Spanish there is a "Comedia de los Menecmos," by Juan di Timoneda,

In the French, Rotrou's "Les Ménechmes" (Paris, 1632) is hardly more than a translation, although Erotium is made a rather stupid but amiable widow. Regnard's "Les Ménechmes ou les jumeaux" (1705) is a lively adaptation of the "Menaechmi" to the French life of the time. Other free French translations are those of Boursault and of Cailhava.

The first translation in English was entitled "Menaechmi, a pleasant and finely conceited comedie, taken out of the most excellent wittie Poet Plautus, chosen purposely from out the rest, as least harmefull, and yet most delightfull. Written in English by W. W. [supposed to be William Warner], London, printed by Tho. Creede, and are to be sold by William Barley at his shop in Gratious-streete. 1595." A "Historie of Error" was performed by the children of Paul's, "on New-yeres daie at night," 1576–7. Shakspeare's "Comedy of Errors" was probably produced in 1595. The chief points of difference between the "Menaechmi" and "The Comedy of Errors" are, that the part of Peniculus is entirely wanting in the latter, and that the part of Erotium in the "Menaechmi" is made much more prominent than that of the corresponding character in Shakspeare's play. Shakspeare more than compensates for the loss of these two characters by the introduction of the two Dromios, who as servants of the two leading characters carry still further the complication of the plot arising from mistaken identity.

THE

MENAECHMI OF T. MACCIUS PLAUTUS

T. MACCI PLAVTI MENAECHMI

ARGVMENTVM

Mercátor Siculus, quoí erant gemini fílii,
Eí surrupto áltero mors óptigit.
Nomén surrupti índit illi, quí domist,
Auós paternus, fácit Menaechmum e Sósicle.
Et ís germanum, póstquam adoleuit, quaéritat 5
Circum ómnis oras. Póst Epidamnum déuenit:
Huc fúerat ductus ílle subreptícius.
Menaéchmum ciuem crédunt omnes áduenam,
Eúmque appellant méretrix, uxor ét socer.
Ibi sé cognoscunt frátres postremo ínuicem. 10

THE MENAECHMI OF T. MACCIUS PLAUTUS

ARGUMENT

THERE was a Sicilian merchant who had twin sons. After one had been stolen the father died. The grandfather on the father's side gave the name of the stolen child to the one left at home, calling him Menaechmus instead of Sosicles.

This son, after he had grown up, seeks his brother all over the world. Finally he comes to Epidamnus, whither the stolen youth had been taken. All residents of Epidamnus believe that the stranger is their citizen Menaechmus, and as such, mistress, wife, and father-in-law address him. There the brothers at last recognize each other.

PERSONAE

PENICVLVS Parasitvs
MENAECHMVS I. } Advlescentes
MENAECHMVS II. (SOSICLES) } Advlescentes
EROTIVM Meretrix
CYLINDRVS Coqvos
MESSENIO Servos
ANCILLA
MATRONA
SENEX
MEDICVS

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

PENICULUS . . .	*A parasite, hanger-on to Menaechmus I*	
MENAECHMUS I. .	*A citizen of Epidamnus,*	*Twin brothers*
MENAECHMUS II. .	*(Sosicles) a citizen of Syracuse,*	
EROTIUM	*A woman, loved by Menaechmus I*	
CYLINDRUS . . .	*A cook, servant of Erotium*	
MESSENIO	*A slave of Menaechmus Sosicles*	

A maid-servant of Erotium; a matron, wife of Menaechmus I.; an old man, father-in-law of Menaechmus I.; a physician, slaves, sailors

SCENE. *At Epidamnus, a Greek city in Illyria, on the east coast of the Adriatic Sea*

TIME, *about* 215 B.C.

PROLOGVS

Salútem primum iam á principio própitiam
Mihi átque uobis, spéctatores, núntio.
Adpórto uobis Plaútum lingua, nón manu:
Quaeso út benignis áccipiatis aúribus.
Nunc árgumentum accípite atque animum aduórtite: 5
Quam pótero in uerba cónferam paucíssuma.

Atque hóc poetae fáciunt in comoédiis:
Omnís res gestas ésse Athenis aútumant,
Quo uóbis illud graécum uideatúr magis.
Ego núsquam dicam, nísi ubi factum dícitur. 10
Atque ádeo hoc arguméntum graecissát: tamen
Non átticissat: uérum sicelissát tamen.
Huic árgumento ántelogium hóc fuit:
Nunc árgumentum uóbis demensúm dabo,
Non módio neque trimódio, uerum ipso hórreo: 15
Tanta ád narrandum argúmentum adest benígnitas.

Mercátor quidam fúit Syracusís senex.
Eí sunt nati fílii geminí duo,
Ita fórma simili púeri, uti matér sua
Non ínternosse pósset quae mammám dabat, 20

NOTE. — The Prologue as it now stands is believed to have been made up from two earlier prologues. In order to render it more consistent, and also to shorten it, the parts that do not seem necessary to a proper understanding of the play are omitted in the rendering. The omissions are made in accordance with the suggestions of Dziatzko, with the exception that lines 47, 48, and 72–76 are retained.

PROLOGUE

IN the first place, spectators, at the very outset, I wish excellent health to you and to myself. I bring you Plautus on my tongue, not in my hand. I beg you to receive him with indulgent ears. Now give me your attention and learn the argument. I shall set it forth in as few words as possible.

There was at Syracuse a certain merchant, well on in years, to whom twin sons were born. The boys were so alike in appearance that their own mother, who nursed them, could not distinguish between them.

Neque ádeo mater ípsa quae illos pépererat;
Vt quídem ille dixit míhi, qui pueros uíderat:
Ego illós non uidi, né quis uostrum cénseat.
  Postquám iam pueri séptuennes súnt, pater
Oneráuit nauim mágnam multis mércibus. 25
Inpónit geminum álterum in nauém pater,
Taréntum auexit sécum ad mercatúm simul:
Illúm reliquit álterum apud matrém domi.
Tarénti ludi fórte erant, quom illúc uenit:
Mortáles multi, ut ád ludos, conuénerant: 30
Puer ínter homines íbi aberrauit á patre.
Epidámniensis quídam ibi mercatór fuit:
Is púerum tollit áuehitque Epidámnum eum.
Pater éius autem póstquam puerum pérdidit,
Animúm despondit: éaque is aegritúdine 35
Paucís diebus póst Tarenti emórtuost.
  Postquám Syracusas de éa re rediit núntius
Ad auóm puerorum, púerum surruptum álterum,
Patrémque pueri Tárenti esse emórtuom,
Immútat nomen huíc auos gemino álteri. 40
Ita illúm dilexit, quí subruptust, álterum:
Illíus nomen índit illi quí domist,
Menaéchmo, idem quod álteri nomén fuit;
Et ípsus eodemst áuos uocatus nómine.
Proptérea illius nómen memini fácilius, 45
Quia illúm clamore uídi flagitárier.
  Ne móx erretis, iám nunc praedicó prius:
Idémst ambobus nómen geminis frátribus.

When the boys were now seven years old, the father loaded a large ship with much merchandise. He put one of the twins also on board the ship, and took the lad with him to Tarentum, on a trading voyage. It chanced that when the ship reached Tarentum, games were being held there, and many people, as is usually the case, had assembled to witness them. The boy wandered away from his father, and was picked up and carried off to Epidamnus, by a merchant of that city who was attending the games. After the father lost his boy, he became despondent, and died of grief a few days later at Tarentum.

When the news was brought back to Syracuse, to their grandfather, that one of the boys had been stolen, and that the father had died at Tarentum, the grandfather changed the name of the other twin. Out of love for the lost boy he called the lad that was left at home Menaechmus, instead of Sosicles.

That you may make no mistake hereafter, even now at this point I inform you that both brothers have the same name.

Nunc ín Epidamnum pédibus redeundúmst mihi,
Vt hánc rem uobis éxamussim dísputem. 50
Si quís quid uostrum Epidámni curarí sibi
Velít, audacter ímperato et dícito:
Sed ita út det, unde cúrari id possít sibi.
Nam nísi qui argentum déderit, nugas égerit:
Qui déderit, magis maióres nugas égerit. 55
Verum íllue redeo, unde ábii, atque uno adsto ín loco.
Epidámniensis ílle, quem dudum díxeram,
Geminum íllum puerum quí surrupuit álterum,
Ei líberorum, nísi diuitiae, níl erat.
Adóptat illum púerum surruptícium 60
Sibi fílium eique uxórem dotatám dedit,
Eúmque heredem fécit, quom ipse obiít diem.
Nam rús ut ibat fórte, ut multum plúerat,
Ingréssus fluuium rápidum ab urbe haud lóngule,
Rapidús raptori púeri subduxít pedes 65
Apstráxitque hominem in máxumam malám crucem.
Ita ílli diuitiae éuenerunt máxumae.
Is íllic habitat géminus surruptícius.
Nunc ílle geminus, quí Syracusís habet,
Hodie ín Epidamnum uéniet cum seruó suo 70
Hunc quaéritatum géminum germanúm suom.
Haec úrbs Epidamnus ést, dum haec agitur fábula:
Quando ália agetur, áliud fiet óppidum;
Sicút familiae quóque solent mutárier:
Modo hic ágitat leno, módo adulescens, módo senex, 75
Paupér mendicus, réx, parasitus, áriolus.

That merchant of Epidamnus whom I just mentioned, who stole Menaechmus, had no children except his riches. He adopted the stolen boy as his own son, gave him a dowered wife, and willed his property to him.

The twin that was stolen dwells here. The twin that lives at Syracuse will come to-day to Epidamnus with his slave, to seek his twin brother. This city is Epidamnus, while this play is on; when another is brought out, it will become another town. Just so actors also change their parts; at one time one acts the procurer, again the youth, then the old man, or poor beggar, or king, or parasite, or soothsayer.

ACTVS I.

SCAENA I.

PENICVLVS.

Iuuéntus nomen fécit Peniculó mihi
Ideó quia mensam, quándo edo, detérgeo.

Hominés captiuos quí catenis uínciunt,
Et quí fugitiuis séruis indunt cómpedes, 80
Nimis stúlte faciunt méa quidem senténtia.
Nam hoc hómini misero si ád malum accedít malum,
Maiór lubidost fúgere et facere néquiter.
Nam se éx catenis éximunt aliquó modo:
Tum cómpediti aut ánum lima praéterunt 85
Aut lápide excutiunt cláuom: nugae súnt eae.
Quem tu ádseruare récte, ne aufugiát, uoles,
Esca átque potióne uincirí decet:
Apud ménsam plenam hómini rostrum déliges.
Dum tu ílli, quod edit ét quod potet, praébeas 90
Suo árbitratu ád fatim cottídie,
Numquam édepol fugiet, tám etsi capital fécerit:
Facile ádseruabis, dúm eo uinclo uíncies.
Ita istaéc nimis lenta uíncla sunt escária:
Quam mágis extendas, tánto adstringunt ártius. 95
Nam ego ád Menaechmum hunc núnc eo, quo iám diu

ACT I.

SCENE I.

A street in Epidamnus. The house at the right of the audience belongs to MENAECHMUS *of Epidamnus, the one at the left belongs to* EROTIUM. *The street on the right leads to the Forum (market-place), the one on the left to the harbor.*

Enter PENICULUS *from the Forum.*

Pen. (*Soliloquizes.*) The boys have given me the name Peniculus [1] because when I eat I sweep the table clean. Men that bind captives with chains and put shackles on fugitive slaves act very foolishly, in my opinion at least. For if a wretched man has insult added to injury, he will have a greater desire to run away or to act badly. Bondmen get out of their chains in some way or other; they cut through the ring of their shackles with a file, or strike off the fastening with a stone. All precautions are useless. If you wish to guard a man properly that he may not run away, you should bind him with food and drink; you can fasten a man's nose to a full table. So long as you give him something to eat and drink, at his own pleasure, to satiety every day, by heavens, he will never run away, even if he has committed a capital crime. You will easily keep him, if you bind him with that chain. These food chains are so very elastic the more you stretch them, the more tightly they bind.

Therefore I am going to this man Menaechmus, to whom

[1] *i.e.* "table-brush," "swiper."

Sum iúdicatus: últro eo, ut me uínciat.
Nam illíc homo homines nón alit, uerum éducat
Recreátque: nullus mélius medicinám facit.
Itást adulescens: ípsus escae máxumae, 100
Ceriális cenas dát: ita mensas éxstruit,
Tantás struices cóncinnat patinárias:
Standúmst in lecto, sí quid de summó petas.
Sed mi ínteruallum iam hós dies multós fuit:
Domí dum invitus sum úsque cum carís meis: 105
Nam néque edo neque emo, nísi quod est caríssumum.
Sed quóniam cari, qui ínstruontur, déserunt,
Nunc ád eum inuiso. Séd aperitur óstium:
Menaéchmum eccum ipsum uídeo: progreditúr foras.

SCAENA II.

MENAECHMVS I. PENICVLVS.

Men. Ní mala, ní stúlta siés, ni índomita 110
Ímpósque animí, quód uiro ésse odió
Videás, túte tibí odió habeás.
Praéterhác sí mihí tále póst húnc diém
Fáxis, fáxó forís uídua uísás patrém:
Nám quotiéns foras íre uoló, 115
Mé retinés, reuocás, rogitás,
Quó ego eám, quám rem agám, quíd negótí gerám,

now for some time I have been adjudged. I am going of my own accord in order that he may bind me. For that man does not simply feed men ; he nourishes them and creates them anew ; no one gives medicine better. He himself is a young man of lordly appetite, and he gives banquets fit for Ceres. He builds up such tablesful and sets such piles of dishes, that you must stand on the couch if you want anything from the top.

But now there has been an interval of many days with me while I have unwillingly remained at home with my dear ones; — for everything that I eat or buy is very dear. But since my dear ones, that are arrayed before me, run away, I am now going to see him. But the door is opening ; lo, I see Menaechmus himself ; he is coming out of doors.

SCENE II.

Enter MENAECHMUS *of Epidamnus, from his house, wearing his wife's mantle under his own cloak. He stands at the door and scolds at his wife in the house.*

Men. If you weren't a vixen, if you weren't an idiot, if you weren't unruly and out of your head, that which you see is disagreeable to your husband you would consider disagreeable to yourself. Furthermore, if after to-day you act so toward me, I'll warrant you shall go as a grass-widow to your father's house. For whenever I want to go away from home you stop me, call me back, ask me where I am going, what I am going to do, what business I have, what I am go-

Quíd petám, quíd ferám, quíd forís égerím.
Pórtitórém domúm dúxi: ita ómném mihí
Rém necésse éloquíst, quícquid égi átque agó. 120
Nímium ego te hábui délicátam. Núnc adeo, út factúrus, dícam.
Quando égo tibi áncillás, penúm,
Lanam, aúrum, uéstem, púrpurám
Bene praébeó nec quícquam egés,
Maló cauébis, sí sapís: 125
Virum óbseruáre désinés.
Átque adeo, ne mé nequicquam sérues, ob eam indústriam
Hódie ducam scórtum atque ad cenam áliquo condicám foras.

Pen. Íllic homo se uxóri simulat mále loqui, loquitúr mihi:
Nám si foris cenát, profecto me, haúd uxorem, ulcíscitur. 130

Men. Eúax, ivrgio hércle tandem uxórem abegi ab iánua.
Vbi sunt amatorés mariti? Dóna quid cessánt mihi
Cónferre omnes cóngratulantes, quía pugnaui fórtiter?
Hánc modo uxori íntus pallam súrrupui: ad scortúm fero.
Síc huic decet darí facete uérba custodí catae. 135
Hoc fácinus pulcrumst, hóc probumst, hoc lépidumst, hoc factúmst fabre:
Meó malo a mala ábstuli hoc: ad amícam deferétur.
Auórti praedam ab hóstibus nostrúm salute sócium.

Pen. Heús adulescens, écqua in istac párs inest praemí mihi?

ing after, what I shall bring back, what I have done away from home. I have married an inspector of customs, — so necessary is it for me to tell everything that I have done or am doing.

I have made too much of a pet of you. Now, indeed, I shall tell you what I am going to do. Since I provide you well with maid-servants, food, clothing, money, drapery, purple, and since you are in want of nothing, you will look out for trouble, if you are wise ; you will quit watching your husband. And, too, that you may not watch me to no purpose, on account of your officiousness I shall to-day find a woman and arrange for a dinner somewhere away from home.

Pen. (*Aside.*) This man pretends that he is scolding his wife ; he is talking at me, for if he dines away from home, he certainly is punishing me, not his wife.

Men. (*Starting away from the door.*) Hurra! by gracious, I have at last driven my wife away from the door by my taunts. Where are these intriguing husbands? Why don't they all bring gifts and congratulations to me, because I have fought so bravely? Thus ought one skilfully to deceive this cunning guardian. It was an excellent trick, it was commendable, it was charming, it was well executed (*lifting up his cloak he exposes the mantle*). I have stolen this from the vixen to my own loss ; it shall be taken to my mistress. I have taken spoil from the enemy to the profit of our allies.

Pen. (*Coming forward.*) Hey, young man! What share, pray, have I in that spoil?

Men. Périi, in insidiás deueni. **Pen.** Immo ín praesidium. Né time. 140

Men. Quís homost? **Pen.** Ego sum. **Men.** O méa commoditas, ó mea opportúnitas,

Sálue. **Pen.** Salue. **Men.** Quíd agis? **Pen.** Teneo déxtera geniúm meum.

Men. Nón potuisti mágis per tempus mi áduenire quam áduenis.

Pen. Íta ego soleo: cómmoditatis ómnis articulós scio.

Men. Vín tu facinus lúculentum inspícere? **Pen.** Quis id coxít coquos? 145

Iám sciam, si quíd titubatumst, úbi reliquias uídero.

Men. Díc mi, en umquam tú uidisti tábulam pictam in páriete,

Ýbi aquila Catameítum raperet, aút ubi Venus Adóneum?

Pen. Saépe. Sed quid istaé picturae ad me áttinent? **Men.** Age me áspice.

Écquid adsimuló similiter? **Pen.** Quís istest ornatús tuos? 150

Men. Díc hominem lepidíssumum esse mé. **Pen.** Vbi essurí sumus?

Men. Díc modo hoc quod égo te iubeo. **Pen.** Díco: homo lepidíssume.

Men. Écquid audes dé tuo istuc áddere? **Pen.** Atque hilaríssume.

Men. Pérge. **Pen.** Non pergo hércle uero, nísi scio qua grátia.

Lítigium tibíst cum uxore: eo mi ábs te caueo caútius. 155

Men. (*Turning away.*) Heavens! I have fallen into an ambuscade.

Pen. Oh, no! into a barricade ; don't be scared.

Men. (*Turning around.*) Who is this?

Pen. It's I.

Men. (*Clasping his hand.*) Oh my vantage! Oh my opportunity! Welcome!

Pen. Welcome!

Men. How do you do?

Pen. I hold my good angel by the right hand.

Men. You couldn't have come at a better time than this.

Pen. That's my style, I know all the points of vantage.

Men. Do you want to see something tasty?

Pen. What cook has cooked it? I shall know as soon as I see what remains, whether or not any blunder has been made.

Men. Tell me, have you ever seen the picture painted in fresco, where the eagle carries off Ganymede, or where Venus carries away Adonis?

Pen. Often ; but what are those pictures to me?

Men. Come, look at me. Do I seem at all like them?

Pen. What's that attire of yours?

Men. Say that I am a very charming man.

Pen. Where are we going to eat?

Men. Say just what I tell you.

Pen. I say it, you are a most charming man.

Men. Don't you dare add something of your own to that?

Pen. And a jolly good fellow.

Men. Go on.

Pen. No, by the gods! I won't go on, unless I know the reason why. You have a quarrel with your wife ; on that account I am the more on my guard against you.

Men. Clam uxóremst ubi sepúlcrum habeamus, atque húnc comburamús diem.

Pen. Áge sane igitur, quándo aequom oras, quám mox incendó rogum?

Díes quidem iam ad úmbilicum est dímidiatus mórtuos.

Men. Té morare, míhi quom obloquere. **Pen.** Óculum ecfodito pér solum 160

Míhi, Menaechme, si úllum uerbum fáxo, nisi quod iússeris.

Men. Cóncede huc a fóribus. **Pen.** Fiat. **Men.** Étiam concede húc. **Pen.** Licet.

Men. Étiam nunc concéde audacter áb leoninó cauo.

Pen. Eú, edepol ne tu, út ego opinor, ésses agitatór probus.

Men. Quídum? **Pen.** Ne te uxór sequatur, réspectas idéntidem. 165

Men. Séd quid ais? **Pen.** Egone? íd enim quod tu uís, id aio atque íd nego.

. . . . . .

Men. Élocutu's.

Núnc ad amicam déferetur hánc meretricem Erótium.

Míhi, tibi atque illí iubebo iam ádparari prándium:

Índe usque ad diúrnam stellam crástinam potábimus.

Pen. Eú, expedite fábulatu's. Iám foris ferió? **Men.** Feri, 180

Vél mane etiam. **Pen.** Mílle passum cómmoratu's cántharum.

Men. Plácide pulta. **Pen.** Métuis credo, né fores Samiaé sient.

Men. There is a place, where we may, without the knowledge of my wife, burn this day on its funeral pyre and hold a wake over the ashes.

Pen. Well, come then! since you ask the fair thing, how soon shall I light the pyre? The day is already half dead.

Men. You yourself cause the delay by talking to me.

Pen. Punch out my eye through the sole of my foot, Menaechmus, if I say a single word to you unless you order it!

Men. (*Motioning to him.*) Come here, away from the door.

Pen. So be it.

Men. (*Motioning again.*) Come still farther this way.

Pen. All right.

Men. (*Impatiently.*) Now retreat boldly from the den of the lioness.

Pen. Ah! by hokey! according to my notion, surely you would make an excellent charioteer. **Men.** Why, pray?

Pen. You keep looking around now and then to see that your wife is not following.

Men. Well, what say you?

Pen. I? Whatever forsooth you desire, that do I say and that deny.

Men. Well said! This mantle shall now be carried to my dear mistress Erotium. I shall give orders that a feast be spread soon for you, for her, and for myself. There we shall drink until the rising of to-morrow's morning star.

Pen. Good! you have spoken to the point. Shall I knock at the door now?

Men. Yes, but wait a moment.

Pen. You've put the bowl a mile away.

Men. Tap gently.

Pen. You are afraid, I suppose, that the doors are of Samian ware!

Men. Máne mane, obsecro hércle: eapse eccam éxit.
Ah, solém uide,
Sátin ut occaecátust prae huius córporis candóribus?

SCAENA III.

EROTIVM. PENICVLVS. MENAECHMVS I.

Ero. Ánime mi, Menaéchme, salue. **Pen.** Quíd ego?
Ero. Extra numerum és mihi. 185
Pen. Ídem istuc aliis ádscriptiuis fíeri ad legioném solet.
Men. Égo istic mihi hodie ádparari iússi apud te proélium.
Ero. Hódie id fiet. **Men.** Ín eo uterque proélio potábimus.
Ví̆ter ibi meliór bellator érit inuentus cántharo,
Túos est: legito ac iúdicato, cúm utro hanc noctém sies. 190
Ví̆t ego uxorem, méa uoluptas, úbi te aspicio, odí male.
Ero. Ínterim nequís quin eius áliquid indutús sies.
Quíd hoc est? **Men.** Induuiaé tuae atque uxóris exuuiaé, rosa.
Ero. Súperas facile, ut súperior sis míhi quam quisquam qui ímpetrant.
Pen. Méretrix tantispér blanditur, dúm illud quod rapiát uidet; 195
Nám si amabas, iám oportebat násum abreptum mórdicus.

Men. (EROTIUM *appears at the door of her house.*) Hold, hold, I beg you, by the gods! Look, she herself is coming out! Ah, see the sun! Isn't it completely darkened by comparison with the brilliancy of her beauty?

SCENE III.

Enter EROTIUM *from her house.*

Ero. My own dear Menaechmus, welcome!

Pen. What of me?

Ero. (*Turning away.*) You don't count.

Pen. But the same provision is made for the supernumeraries as for the soldiers.

Men. (*To* EROTIUM.) I arranged a contest between him and me at your house to-day.

Ero. It shall be done to-day.

Men. In that contest we shall both drink. Whichever shall there be found the better warrior with the bowl is yours. Consider and decide with which one you will be to-night. (*Starting back in admiration.*) How I hate my wife, my darling, when I look at you!

Ero. (*Taking hold of the mantle.*) And yet, you can't help wearing something of hers (*lifting it up*). What is this?

Men. Spoil for you, my rosebud, of which I despoiled my wife.

Ero. You easily excel, as you are more excellent than any one else that courts me.

Pen. (*Aside.*) The woman is petting him a little, while she is looking to see what she can steal ; (*to Erotium*) for, if you loved him, his nose would be off by this time with your biting him.

Men. Sústine hoc, Penícule: exuuias fácere quas uouí uolo.

Pen. Cédo, sed obsecro hércle, salta síc cum palla póstea.

Men. Égo saltabo? sánus hercle nón es. **Pen.** Egone an tú magis?

Sí non saltas, éxue igitur. **Men.** Nímio ego hanc perí-culo 200

Súrrupui hodie. Méo quidem animo ab Híppolyta sub-cíngulum

Hércules haud aéque magno umquam ábstulit perículo.

Cápe tibi hanc: quando úna uiuis méis morigera móribus.

Ero. Hóc animo decét animatos ésse amatorés probos.

Pen. Quí quidem ad mendícitatem sé properent detrú-dere. 205

Men. Quáttuor minís ego istanc ánno emi uxorí meae.

Pen. Quáttuor minaé perierunt pláne, ut ratio rédditur.

Men. Scín quid uolo ego te áccurare? **Ero.** Cédo, curabo quaé uoles.

Men. Iúbe igitur tribus nóbis apud te prándium accurárier

Átque aliquid scitámentorum dé foro obsonárier: 210

Glándionidám suillum aut láridum pernónidam

Aút sinciputaménta porcina aút aliquid ad eúm modum,

Mádida quae mi adpósita in mensa míluinam súggerant.

Átque actutum. **Ero.** Lícet ecastor. **Men.** Nós pro-dimus ád forum:

Iam híc nos erimus. Dúm coquetur, ínterim potábimusi 215

Ero. Quándo uis, uení: parata rés erit. **Men.** Properá modo.

Men. (*Takes off his own cloak.*) Hold this, Peniculus. I want to offer the spoils that I have vowed.

Pen. (*Taking it.*) All right ; but, I beg you, dance as you are with the mantle on.

Men. I dance? By Hercules! you are crazy.

Pen. Am I, or rather you? If you don't dance (*taking hold of the mantle*), then take it off.

Men. (*Pushing him away.*) I have stolen this to-day at a mighty risk. In my opinion, indeed, Hercules did not incur so great a risk in stealing the girdle of Hippolyta (*takes off the mantle and hands it to* EROTIUM). Take it as your own, since you are the only living creature congenial to my taste.

Ero. With this feeling ought true lovers to be inspired.

Pen. (*Aside.*) At least such as would rush headlong into beggary.

Men. I bought that for my wife last year for four minae.[1]

Pen. (*Aside.*) The four minae are undoubtedly gone forever, according to the account rendered.

Men. (*To* EROTIUM.) Do you know what I would like to have you attend to?

Ero. Tell me ; I will do what you desire.

Men. Arrange for a dinner at your house for us three. Get some dainties at the market-place, — a pork chop, or smoked ham, or hog's jowl, or something of that sort, which boiled tender and placed on the table will give a fellow the appetite of a hawk. And quickly too.

Ero. Certainly, it shall be done

Men. (*Starting away.*) We are off for the Forum ; we'll soon be back. While the meat is cooking we'll go and have a drink.

Ero. Come back when you please ; everything will be ready.

Men. Please make haste.

[1] About $75.

Séquere tu me. **Pen.** Ego hércle uero te ét seruabo et té sequar,
Néque hodie, ut te pérdam, meream deórum diuitiás mihi.
Ero. Éuocate intús Cylindrum míhi coquom actutúm foras.

SCAENA IV.

EROTIVM. CYLINDRVS.

Ero. Spórtulam cape átque argentum. Éccos tris nummós habes. 220
Cyl. Hábeo. **Ero.** Abi atque obsónium adfer. Tríbus uide quod sít satis:
Néque defiat néque supersit. **Cyl.** Quoius modi í hominés erunt?
Ero. Égo, Menaechmus ét parasitus éius. **Cyl.** Iam isti súnt decem.
Nám parasitus ócto hominum múnus facile fúngitur.
Ero. Élocuta súm conuiuas: céterum cura. **Cyl.** Ílicet. 225
Cócta sunt: iube íre accubitum. **Ero.** Rédi cito. **Cyl.** Iam ego híc ero.

(*To* PENICULUS.) You follow me.

Pen. Yes, indeed, I shall certainly keep by you and follow you. I wouldn't lose you to-day for the wealth of the gods. [*Exeunt.*]

Ero. (*Speaking to a slave in the house.*) Call my cook Cylindrus to the door quickly.

SCENE IV.

Enter CYLINDRUS *from the house of* EROTIUM.

Ero. Take a basket (*he steps back and gets one*), and money. Here you have three coins.

Cyl. (*Taking the money.*) Yes.

Ero. Go and buy provisions. Get enough for three, no more and no less.

Cyl. What sort of people are these to be?

Ero. Menaechmus, his parasite, and I.

Pen. Well, they make ten, for the parasite easily does duty for eight persons.

Ero. I have named the guests ; you attend to the rest.

Cyl. At once. The things are as good as cooked. Tell the guests to go and recline on the couches.

Ero. Return quickly (*she goes into the house*).

Cyl. I shall be back immediately. (*Exit.*)

ACTVS II.

SCAENA I.

MENAECHMVS II. MESSENIO.

Men. Volúptas nullast náuitis, Messénio,
Maiór meo animo, quám si quam ex altó procul
Terrám conspiciunt. **Mes.** Máior, non dicám dolo,
Si aduéniens terram uídeas, quae fuerít tua. 230
Sed quaéso, quamobrem núnc Epidamnum uénimus?
An quási mare omnis círcumimus ínsulas?
Men. Fratrém quaesitum géminum germanúm meum.
Mes. Nam quíd modi futúrumst illum quaérere?
Hic ánnus sextust, póstquam ei rei operám damus. 235
Histrós, Hispanos, Mássiliensis, Hílurios,
Mare súperum ómne Graéciamque exóticam
Orásque Italicas ómnis, qua adgreditúr mare,
Sumus círcumuecti. Sí acum, credo, quaéreres,
Acum ínuenisses, si áppareret, iám diu. 240
Hominem ínter uiuos quaéritamus mórtuom:
Nam inuénissemus iám diu, si uiueret.
Men. Ergo ístuc quaero cértum qui faciát mihi,
Qui sése dicat scíre, eum esse emórtuom:
Operám praeterea númquam sumam quaérere. 245
Verum áliter uiuos númquam desistam éxsequi:
Ego íllum scio quam cárus sit cordí meo.

ACT II.

SCENE I.

Enter MENAECHMUS II. (SOSICLES) *of Syracuse and* MESSENIO, *his slave, from the harbor, with two sailors carrying baggage.*

Men. Sos. In my opinion, Messenio, sailors have no greater pleasure than that felt on catching sight of land, when they are afar off on the deep.

Mes. There is a greater (I shall speak plainly) if on approaching, you see the land that has been your home. But, I beg of you, why have we now come to Epidamnus? Are we going around all islands as the sea does?

Men. Sos. I have come to seek my own twin brother.

Mes. What, pray, will be the end of the search for him? This is the sixth year since we commenced it. We have sailed around Istria, Spain, Marseilles, Illyria, all the Adriatic and Magna Graecia, and all Italian countries that the sea touches. If you were hunting a needle, you would have found it long ago, I believe, if it were in existence. You are seeking a dead man among the living ; for, if your brother were alive, we should have found him long since.

Men. Sos. Well then, I am looking for some one who can assure me of that fact, who can say that he knows that my brother is dead. After that I'll trouble myself no more with the quest ; but otherwise, I shall not give up the search so long as I live. I know how dear he is to my heart.

Mes. In scírpo nodum quaéris. Quin nos híne domum
Redímus, nisi si históriam scripturí sumus?
Men. Dictum haú facessas dóctum, si caueás malo. 250
Moléstus ne sis: nón tuo hoc fiét modo.
Mes. Em, ílloc enim uerbo ésse me seruóm scio:
Non pótuit paucis plúra plane próloqui.
Verúm tamen nequeo cóntineri quín loquar.
Audín, Menaechme? quom ínspicio marsúppium, 255
Viáticati hercle ádmodum aestiué sumus.
Ne tu hércle, opinor, nísi domum reuórteris,
Vbi níl habebis, géminum dum quaerís, gemes.
Nam itást haec hominum nátio: in Epidámniis
Voluptárii atque pótatores máxumi; 260
Tum sýcophantae et pálpatores plúrumi
In úrbe hac habitant: túm meretrices múlieres
Nusquám perhibentur blándiores géntium.
Proptérea huic urbi nómen Epidamno índitumst,
Quia némo ferme síne damno huc deuórtitur. 265
Men. Ego istúc cauebo. Cédo dum huc mihi marsúppium.
Mes. Quid eó uis? **Men.** Iam aps te métuo de uerbís tuis.
Mes. Quid métuis? **Men.** Ne mihi dámnum in Epidamnó duas.
Tu amátor magnus múlierum es, Messénio,
Ego aútem homo iracúndus, animi pérditi: 270
Id utrúmque, argentum quándo habebo, cáuero,
Ne tú delinquas néue ego irascár tibi.
Mes. Cape átque serua: mé lubente féceris.

Mes. You are seeking a knot in a bulrush. Why don't we return home, unless indeed we are going to write a book of travels?

Men. Sos. You'd better not make smart speeches, unless you want a beating. Don't bother me. This matter will not be arranged to please you.

Mes. (*Aside.*) Hm! By that speech indeed I see that I am a slave. He could not with such distinctness have expressed more in a few words. But nevertheless I cannot refrain from speaking. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Listen, Menaechmus! When I look into the purse, I see that we are, in truth, equipped as if for a summer's journey. By Hercules, I certainly think that unless you return home you will be reduced to poverty, and will pay the penalty for this search for your twin brother. For the people here are of this sort: among the Epidamnians are revellers and very hard drinkers; very many sharpers and tricksters, too, dwell in this city, and nowhere in the world are the women considered more enticing. On this account the name Epidamnus has been given to this place, because scarcely anyone leaves here without some damage.

Men. Sos. I shall look out for that. (*Holding out his hand.*) Just give that purse to me.

Mes. (*Drawing back.*) What do you want it for?

Men. Sos. I am afraid of you, because you talk so.

Mes. Why are you afraid?

Men. Soc. Lest you cause me some damage in Épidamnus. You are a great lover of women, Messenio ; I, on the other hand, am an irascible man, of ungovernable temper. When I get the money, I shall see to it that you do not wrong me and that I do not get angry at you.

Mes. (*Giving him the purse.*) Take it and keep it. I am willing you should have it.

SCAENA II.

CYLINDRVS. MENAECHMVS II. MESSENIO.

Cyl. Bene ópsonaui atque éx mea senténtia:
Bonum ánteponam prándium pransóribus. 275
Sed eccúm Menaechmum uídeo. Vae tergó meo:
Prius iám conuiuae obámbulant ante óstium,
Quam ego ópsonatu rédeo. Adibo atque ádloquar.
Menaéchme, salue. **Men.** Dí te amabunt, quísquis es.
. . . . quís ego sim? 280
Mes. Non hércle uero. **Cyl.** Vbi conuiuae céteri?
Men. Quos tú conuiuas quaéris? **Cyl.** Parasitúm tuom.
Men. Meúm parasitum? cérto hic insanúst homo.
Mes. Dixín tibi esse hic sýcophantas plúrumos?
Men. Quem tú parasitum quaéris, adulescéns, meum? 285
Cyl. Penículum. **Men.** . . . ubi . . . meus?
Mes. Penículum tuom eccum ín uidulo saluóm fero.
Cyl. Menaéchme, numero huc áduenis ad prándium:
Nunc ópsonatu rédeo. **Men.** Respondé mihi,
Aduléscens: quibus hic prétiis porci uéneunt 290
Sacrés sinceri? **Cyl.** Númmis. **Men.** Nummum a me áccipe:
Iube té piari dé mea pecúnia.
Nam equidem ínsane insanum ésse te certó scio,
Qui míhi molestu's hómini ignoto, quísquis es.
Cyl. Est tíbi Menaechmo nómen, tantum quód sciam. 295

SCENE II.

Enter CYLINDRUS *from the market-place with a basket of provisions.*

Cyl. (*Soliloquizes.*) I have provided well and according to my liking. I shall set a good meal before the diners. But, lo, I see Menaechmus! Woe to my back! The guests are already at the door before I return from the marketing. I'll go and speak to him. Good morning, Menaechmus.

Men. Sos. May the gods love you, whoever you are. (*To* MESSENIO.) Do you know this man who knows me?

Mes. Most assuredly I do not.

Cyl. Where are the other guests?

Men. Sos. What other guests are you asking about?

Cyl. Your parasite.

Men. Sos. My parasite? (*To* MESSENIO.) Certainly this fellow is insane.

Mes. Didn't I tell you that there are very many sharpers here?

Men. Sos. (*To* CYLINDRUS.) What parasite of mine are you looking for, young man?

Cyl. Peniculus.

Men. Sos. Where is my peniculus? [1]

Mes. (*Looking into the bag.*) Here I have your peniculus safe in the bag.

Cyl. Menaechmus, you come back too soon to dinner. I am just returning from the marketing.

Men. Sos. Answer me, young man, what's the price of pigs here, sound, unblemished ones?

Cyl. A shilling apiece.

Men. Sos. Accept this shilling from me. Have a sacrifice made for yourself at my expense, for surely I know for certain that you are perfectly daft, whoever you are, because you are impertinent to me a stranger.

Cyl. Your name is Menaechmus, that much I know.

[1] *i.e.* "little brush."

Men. Pro sáno loqueris, quóm me appellas nómine.
Sed úbi nouisti tú me? **Cyl.** Vbi ego te nóuerim,
Qui amícam eram meam hábeas hanc Erótium?
Men. Neque hércle ego habeo néque te, qui homo sis, scio.
Cyl. Culíndrus ego sum: nón nosti nomén meum? 300
Men. Si tú Culindrus seú Colindru's, périeris.
Ego té non noui néque nouisse adeó uolo.
Cyl. Non scís quis ego sim, quí tibi saepíssume
Cyathísso apud nos, quándo potas? **Mes.** Heí mihi,
Quom níhil est, qui illic hómini dimminuám caput. 305
Men. Tun cyathissare míhi soles, qui ante húnc diem
Epidámnum numquam uídi neque uení? **Cyl.** Negas?
Men. Nego hércle uero. **Cyl.** Nón tu in illisce aédibus
Habes? **Men.** Di íllos homines, qui íllic habitant, pérduint.
Cyl. Insánit hic quidem, qui ípsus male dicít sibi. 310
Audín, Menaechme? **Men.** Quíd uis? **Cyl.** Si me cónsulas,
Nummum íllum quem mihi dúdum pollicitú's dare,
Iubeás, si sapias, pórculum adferrí tibi.
Nam tú quidem hercle cérto non sanú's satis,
Menaéchme, qui nunc ípsus male dicás tibi. 315
Men. Heu, hércle hóminem múltum et odiosúm mihi.
Cyl. Solét iocari saépe mecum illóc modo.
Quam uís ridiculus ést, ubi uxor nón adest.
Quid aís tu? **Men.** Quid uis, néquam? **Cyl.** Satin hoc, quód uides,
Tribus uóbis opsonátumst an opsono ámplius, 320

Men. Sos. You speak as a sane man, when you call me by name ; but where did you get acquainted with me?

Cyl. Where did I get acquainted with you, the man that has my mistress Erotium as a mistress?

Men. Sos. No, indeed, I haven't, nor do I know who you are.

Cyl. I am Cylindrus. Don't you know my name?

Men. Sos. Whether you are Cylindrus or Colindrus, to the deuce with you. I don't know you, and I don't want to know you.

Cyl. Don't you know me, the servant who so often fills your cup when you are drinking at our house?

Mes. Woe is me, that I have nothing with which to smash this fellow's head!

Men. Sos. (*To* CYLINDRUS.) Are you accustomed to fill the cup for me, a man that before to-day has never been in Epidamnus, nor seen it?

Cyl. Do you deny it?

Men. Sos. Deny it? I should say I did!

Cyl. (*Pointing to the house of* MENAECHMUS *of Epidamnus.*) Don't you live in that house yonder?

Men. Sos. May the gods destroy those who live there!

Cyl. (*Aside.*) He is the one who is insane, — he who is calling down destruction upon himself. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Do you hear, Menaechmus?

Men. Sos. What do you want?

Cyl. If you would take my advice, you would, if you are wise, order that a porker be procured for yourself with that shilling which you just now promised to give me ; for you, in Hercules' name, are surely not altogether sane, Menaechmus, who are calling down curses upon yourself.

Men. Sos. O, bah! by Hercules, the man is a wind-bag and nuisance.

Cyl. (*Aside to the audience.*) He often jokes with me in that way. He is as funny as you please, when his wife is not around. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) What say you?

Men. Sos. What do you want, you good-for-nothing?

Cyl. (*Shows the contents of his basket.*) Is this that you see enough provision for you three, or shall I provide more

Tibi ét parasito et múlieri? **Men.** Quas múlieres,
Quos tú parasitos lóquere? **Mes.** Quod te urgét scelus,
Qui huic sís molestus? **Cyl.** Quíd tibi mecúmst rei?
Ego té non noui: cum hóc, quem noui, fábulor.
Men. Non édepol tu homo sánus es, certó scio. 325
Cyl. Iam ego haéc madebunt fáxo: nil morábitur.
Proin tú ne quo abeas lóngius ab hisce aédibus.
Numquíd uis? **Men.** Vt eas máxumam malám crucem.
Cyl. Te ire hércle meliust íntro iam atque accúmbere,
Dum ego haéc appono ad Vólcani uioléntiam. 330
Ibo íntro et dicam te híc adstare Erótio,
Vt te hínc abducat pótius quam hic adstés foris.
Men. Iamne ábiit? Abiit. Édepol haud mendácia
Tua uérba experior ésse. **Mes.** Obseruató modo:
Nam istíc meretricem crédo habitare múlierem, 335
Vt quídem ille insanus díxit, qui hinc abiít modo.
Men. Sed míror, qui ille nóuerit nomén meum.
Mes. Minume hércle mirum: mórem hunc meretricés habent:
Ad pórtum mittunt séruolos, ancíllulas:
Si quaé peregrina náuis in portum áduenit, 340
Rogitánt quoiatis sít, quid ei nomén siet:
Postílla extemplo se ádplicant, adglútinant:
Si péllexerunt, pérditum amittúnt domum.
Nunc ín istoc portu stát nauis praedatória,
Aps quá cauendum nóbis sane cénseo. 345
Men. Monés quidem hercle récte. **Mes.** Tum demúm sciam

for you and your parasite, and the woman?

Men. Sos. What women, what parasites, are you talking about?

Mes. (*To* CYLINDRUS.) What depravity makes you so impertinent to him?

Cyl. (*To* MESSENIO.) What business have you with me? I don't know you. I am talking with this man whom I do know.

Men. Sos. Surely you are a madman. I know it for certain.

Cyl. (*Starting toward* EROTIUM'S *house.*) Now I shall see that these things are well cooked ; there will be no delay. Therefore, don't go very far away from the house. Do you wish anything further?

Men. Sos. That you go to the dogs!

Cyl. You'd better go inside now and recline on the couch, while I put these things on to cook (*he reaches the door*). I shall go and tell Erotium that you are outside, that she may invite you in, rather than have you stand here before the door (*goes into the house*).

Men. Sos. Has he now gone? He has. (*To* MESSENIO.) By heavens, I find that your words are not untrue!

Mes. Just be on the alert, for I believe that a courtesan lives there, as indeed, that crazy fellow said that just now went away from here.

Men. Sos. But I wonder how he came to know my name.

Mes. That, indeed, is not at all strange. Courtesans have this practice of sending their slaves and maid-servants to the harbor. If any foreign ship comes into port, they ask where it is from and what its name is. Then they immediately devote themselves to the master ; they stick fast to him, and if they can seduce him they send him home bankrupt. Now there is a pirate ship standing in that harbor (*points to* EROTIUM'S *house*), against which I think we must certainly be on our guard.

Men. Sos. You certainly give good advice.

Mes. Then, indeed, I shall know that I have advised well,

Recté monuisse, sí tu recte cáueris.
Men. Tace dúm parumper: nám concrepuit óstium.
Videámus, qui hinc egréditur. **Mes.** Hoc ponam ínterim.
Adséruatote haec súltis, naualés pédes. 350

SCAENA III.

EROTIVM. MENAECHMVS II. MESSENIO.

Ero. Sine fóris sic: ábi, nolo óperirí:
Intús pará, curá: uidé,
Quod opúst, fiát. Sterníte lectós,
Incéndite odóres: múnditiá
Inlécebra anímost amántiúm. 355
Amánti amoénitás malóst, nobís lucróst.
Sed ubi íllest, quém coquos ánte aedís ait ésse? atque éccum uídeo,
Qui mí est usui ét plurúmum prodést.
Item huíc ultró fit, út merét, potíssumus nóstrae ut sít domí
Nunc éum adíbo: adlóquar ultró. 360
Animúle mi, mihí mirá uidentúr
Te hic stáre forís, fores quoí pateánt
Magis, quám domus túa, domus quom haéc tua sít.
Omné paratúmst,
Vt iússisti átque ut uóluistí, 365
Neque tíbi iamst úlla mora íntus.

if you will be well on your guard.

Men. Sos. Pray, keep quiet a moment, for the door is opening. Let us see who is coming out (*they withdraw to the side*).

Mes. (*Puts down the bag.*) Meanwhile I'll place this here. (*To the sailors.*) Will you sailors please watch these things?

SCENE III.

Enter EROTIUM *from her house. She stands at the door.*

Ero. (*To a servant inside the house.*) Leave the doors so ; go away, I don't want them closed. Make ready within. Be careful ; see that whatever is necessary is done. Cover the couches, light the incense ; elegance is a snare for the hearts of lovers. Beauty is our lover's loss, 'tis our gain. (*Soliloquizes.*) But where is he who the cook said was before the door? Ah ! there I see him, who is of the greatest assistance to me. I willingly treat him as he deserves, who is such a help to my house. I'll now go to him. I'll speak first.

(*To* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES, *in the street.*) My little sweetheart, I am surprised that you stand here before the doors that are wider open to you than those of your own house, — since this is your own house. Everything is prepared as you have ordered and desired, and there is now no longer any reason for delay.

Prandíum, ut iussísti, hic cúratúmst:
Vbi lúbet, ilícet accúbitum.

Men. Quícum haec mulier lóquitur? **Ero.** Equidem técum. **Men.** Quid mecúm tibi
Fúit umquam aut nunc ést negoti? **Ero.** Quía pol te unum ex ómnibus 370
Vénus me uoluit mágnificare: néque id haud immeritó tuo.
Nám ecastór solús bene factis túis me florentém facis.

Men. Cérto haec mulier aút insana aut ébriast, Messénio,
Quaé hominem ignotúm conpellet mé tam familiáriter.

Mes. Díxin ego istaec híc solere fíeri? Folia núnc cadunt, 375
Prae út si triduom hóc hic erimus: tum árbores in té cadent.
Nam íta sunt hic meretríces: omnes élecebrae argentáriae.
Séd sine me dum hanc cómpellare. Heus múlier, tibi dicó.

Ero. Quid est?

Mes. Vbi tu húnc hominém nouísti? **Ero.** Ibídem, ubi híc me iám diu.
Ín Epidamno. **Mes.** In Epidamno? qui húc in hanc urbém pedem, 380
Nísi hodie, numquam íntro tetulit? **Ero.** Héia, deliciás facis.
Mí Menaechme, quín amabo is íntro? Hic tibi erit réctius.

Men. Haéc quidem edepol récte appellat méo me mulier nómine.
Nímis miror, quid hoc sít negoti. **Mes.** Óboluit marsúppium

The dinner, as you directed, has been provided here. When you wish you may go and take your place.

Men. Sos. (*To* MESSENIO.) With whom is this woman talking? **Ero.** (*To* MENAECHMUS.) With you, of course.

Men. Sos. What business have I ever had with you, or have I now?

Ero. Why, in truth, Venus has desired that I exalt you alone above all others ; and you are not undeserving of it either, for surely you alone make me prosperous by your kind acts.

Men. Sos. (*Apart to* MESSENIO.) Certainly this woman is either crazy or drunk, Messenio, who addresses me, a stranger, so familiarly.

Mes. (*Apart.*) Didn't I say it was the custom here to do such things? The leaves are now falling, as a matter of comparison with what will happen if we stay here three days; by that time the trees will be falling on you. For the women here are of this kind, that they are all money getters. But just let me talk to this woman. Hello, woman, it's to you I'm speaking! **Ero.** What is it?

Mes. Where did you get acquainted with this gentleman?

Ero. In the same place where he got acquainted with me some time ago, in Epidamnus.

Mes. In Epidamnus? with a man that never set foot inside this city until to-day?

Ero. Oh! you're joking. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) My dear Menaechmus, why, I pray you, don't you go inside? It will be pleasanter for you in there (*she starts toward her door*).

Men. Sos. (*Apart.*) In truth, this woman does certainly call me by my right name. I wonder what this means?

Mes. (*Apart to* MENAECHMUS.) She has smelled the purse that you have.

Huíc istuc, quod habés. **Men.** Atque edepol tú me monuistí probe. 385

Accipe dum hoc: iam scíbo, utrum haec me máge amet an marsúppium.

Ero. Eámus intro, ut prándeamus. **Men.** Béne uocas: tam grátiast.

Ero. Cúr igitur me tíbi iussisti cóquere dudum prándium?

Men. Égon te iussi cóquere? **Ero.** Certo tíbi tu et parasitó tuo.

Men. Quoí malum parasíto? Certo haec múlier non sanást satis. 390

Ero. Péniculo. **Men.** Quis istést Peniculus? qui éxtergentur báxeae?

Ero. Scílicet qui dúdum tecum uénit, quom pallám mihi

Détulisti, quám ab uxore túa surrupuistí. **Men.** Quid est?

Tíbi pallam dedí, quam uxori méae surrupui? sánan es?

Cérto haec mulier cánterino rítu astans sómniat. 395

Ero. Quí lubet ludíbrio habere me átque ire infitiás mihi

Fácta quae sunt? **Men.** Díc quid est id quód negem: quod fécerim?

Ero. Pállam te hodie míhi dedisse uxóris. **Men.** Etiam núnc nego.

Égo quidem neque úmquam uxorem hábui neque habeó: neque huc

Ímquam, postquam nátus sum, intra pórtam penetrauí pedem. 400

Men. Sos. (*Apart to* MESSENIO.) To be sure. You have advised me well. Pray take this (*gives him the purse*). I shall soon find out whether she loves me or the purse the more.

Ero. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Let us go inside to dinner.

Men. Sos. You are very kind. No, I thank you.

Ero. Why then did you direct me just a little while ago to prepare dinner?

Men. Sos. Did I direct you to prepare a dinner?

Ero. Assuredly, for you and for your parasite.

Men. Sos. For what parasite? (*Apart to* MESSENIO.) Certainly this woman is not altogether of sound mind.

Ero. For Peniculus.

Men. Sos. Who is this Peniculus? the one with which we clean our shoes?

Ero. The one, to be sure, that came with you a little while ago, when you brought me the mantle that you stole from your wife.

Men. Sos. What's that? Did I give you a mantle that I stole from my wife? Are you in your right mind? (*Apart to* MESSENIO.) Surely this woman dreams on her feet, just as a horse does.

Ero. Why do you wish to make sport of me, and deny what you have done?

Men. Sos. Tell me what I have done that I deny.

Ero. That you gave your wife's mantle to me to-day.

Men. Sos. Now again I deny that. I indeed have never had a wife, and have none now ; and I never set foot inside this city from the time that I was born until to-day. I break-

Prándi in naui: inde húc sum egressus ét te conueni.
Ero. Éccere,
Périi misera. Quám tu mihi nunc náuem narras? **Men.** Lígneam,
Saépe tritam, saépe fissam, saépe excusam málleo.
Quási supellex péllionis: pálus palo próxumust.
Ero. Iám amabo, desíste ludos fácere atque i hac mecúm semul. 405
Men. Néscio quem tu, múlier, alium hóminem, non me quaéritas.
Ero. Nón ego te nouí Menaechmum, Móscho prognatúm patre,
Quí Syracusís perhibere nátus esse in Sícilia,
Ýbi rex Agathoclés regnator fúit, et iterum Píntia,
Tértium Liparó, qui in morte régnum Hieroni trádidit, 410
Núnc Hierost? **Men.** Haud falsa, mulier, praédicas.
Mes. Pro Iúppiter,
Núm istaec mulier íllinc uenit, quaé te nouit tám cate?
Men. Hércle opinor pérnegari nón potest. **Mes.** Ne féceris.
Périisti, si intrássis intra límen. **Men.** Quin tu táce modo: 415
Béne res geritur. Ádsentabor, quíquid dicet, múlieri,
Sí possum hospitiúm nancisci. Iám dudum, muliér, tibi
Nón imprudens áduorsabar: húnc metuebam né meae
Ýxori renúntiaret dé palla et de prándio. 420
Núnc quando uis, eámus intro. **Ero.** Étiam parasitúm manes?

fasted on board ship, thence I came out here and met you.

Ero. Ah, wretched me, I am undone ! Of what ship are you speaking?

Men. Sos. A wooden ship, often buffeted, often rent, often thumped with the mallet. Peg is very near to peg, as in a furrier's block.

Ero. Now I beg of you, quit making fun of me and come along with me.

Men. Sos. Woman, you are looking for some other man, not me.

Ero. Don't I know you, Menaechmus, son of your father Moschus, said to have been born at Syracuse in Sicily, when King Agathocles was ruler, and then Pintia, next Liparo, who at his death bequeathed the kingdom to Hiero, the present ruler?

Men. Sos. Woman, you do not tell that which is untrue.

Mes. In Jupiter's name! Didn't this woman come from there, she knows you so well? **Ero.** Let us go within to dinner.

Men. Sos. (*Apart to* MESSENIO.) By Hercules, I think I can't deny her!

Mes. (*Apart.*) Don't you do it. You are lost, if you go inside the threshold.

Men. Sos. (*Apart.*) Pray, do be still, it's all right. I'll agree to whatever the woman says, if I can thus get entertainment. (*To* EROTIUM.) For some time, lady, I have purposely opposed you. I was afraid lest this fellow would tell my wife about the mantle and the dinner. Now when you will, let us go in.

Ero. Are you waiting for your parasite too?

Men. Néque ego illum maneó neque flocci fácio, neque si uénerit,
Éum uolo intro mítti. **Ero.** Ecastor haúd inuita fécero.
Séd scin quid te amábo ut facias? **Men.** Ímpera quiduís modo.
Ero. Pállam illam quam dúdum dederas, ád phrygionem ut déferas, 425
Ít reconcinnétur atque ut ópera addantur quaé uolo.
Men. Hércle qui tu récte dicis ét eadem ignorábitur,
Né uxor cognoscát te habere, si ín uia conspéxerit.
Ero. Érgo mox auférto tecum, quándo abibis. **Men.** Máxume.
Ero. Eámus intro. **Men.** Iám sequar te: húnc uolo etiam cónloqui. 430
Ého, Messenio, ád me accede huc. **Mes.** Quíd negotist? **Men.** Súscipe hoc.
Mes. Quíd eo opust? **Men.** Opúst. Scio ut me díces. **Mes.** Tanto néquior.
Men. Hábeo praedam; tántum incépi óperis. I, quantúm potest 435
Ábduc istos ín tabernam actútum deuorsóriam.
Tú facito ante sólem occasum ut uénias aduorsúm mihi.
Mes. Nón tu istas meretríces nouisti, ére? **Men.** Tace, inquam atque hínc abi.
Míhi dolebit, nón tibi, si quíd ego stulte fécero.
Múlier haec stulta átque inscitast: quántum perspexí modo, 440

Men. Sos. I'm not waiting for him. I don't care a straw for him ; and if he should come, I don't want him admitted.

Ero. I'll do it with no bad grace. But do you know what I want you to do?

Men. Sos. Just command whatsoever you wish.

Ero. I would like to have you carry the mantle you just gave me to the embroiderer's, that it may be made over and the trimmings added that I want.

Men. Sos. By heavens, you are the one to speak to the point. In that way it will be so disguised that my wife would not know that you have it, if she should catch sight of you on the street.

Ero. Take it with you by and by when you go away.

Men. Sos. Certainly.

Ero. Let us go in.

Men. Sos. Go, I'll follow soon. I wish to speak a moment with him. (EROTIUM *goes in.*) Ho, Messenio ! come here to me.

Mes. What does this mean?

Men. Sos. (*Pointing to the bag.*) Take this up. By heavens, I think I can't refuse her.

Mes. Why not?

Men. Sos. Because — I know what you will say to me.

Mes. So much the worse.

Men. Sos. The booty is mine. I have a great scheme. Take these (*pointing to the sailors*) straight to some lodging-house as quickly as possible. Be sure to come to meet me at sunset.

Mes. Aren't you familiar with the ways these women have?

Men. Sos. Be still, I say, and get away from here. It will be my loss, not yours, if I do anything foolish. The woman is silly and ignorant. So far as I have found out, the spoil

Ést hic praeda nóbis. **Mes.** Perii. Iámne abis? Periít probe:
Dúcit lembum iám dierectum náuis praedatória.
Séd ego inscitus súm qui ero me póstulem moderárier:
Dícto me emit aúdientem, haud ímperatorém sibi.
Séquimini, ut, quod ímperatumst, uéniam aduorsum témperi. 445

SCAENA IV.

Penicvlvs.

Plús triginta nátus annis égo sum, quom intereá loci
Númquam quicquam fácinus feci péius neque sceléstius,
Quám hodie, quom in cóntionem médiam me inmersí miser:
Ýbi ego dúm hietó, Menaechmus sé subterduxít mihi
Átque abiit ad amícam, credo, néque me uoluit dúcere. 450
Quí illum dí omnes pérduint, qui prímus commentúst male
Cóntionem habére, quae homines óccupatos óccupat.
Nón ad eam rem hercle ótiosos hómines decuit délegi,
Quí nisi adsint quóm citentur, cénsus capiant ílico?
Ádfatimst hominum, ín dies qui síngulas escás edint, 455
Quíbus negoti níhil est, qui essum néque uocantur néque uocant:
Éos oportet cóntioni dáre operam atque cómitiis.

is ours (*he starts into* EROTIUM'S *house*).

Mes. I'm undone ! Are you going now? (MENAECHMUS *goes in.*) He surely is lost, the pirate ship is now leading the cutter to destruction. But I am foolish in asking to rule my master. He bought me to obey him, not to command him. (*To the sailors.*) Follow me, that I may come to meet him in good time as he commanded. (*They go off toward the harbor.*)

SCENE IV.

Enter PENICULUS *from the Forum.*

Pen. (*Soliloquizes.*) I have lived now more than thirty years and during all that time I have never done anything more foolish or more disastrous than what I did to-day, when, fool that I was, I plunged into the midst of a crowd, and while I stood there gaping suffered Menaechmus to give me the slip. So he went away to his mistress, I suppose, and didn't wish to take me with him.

May all the gods destroy him who first maliciously devised this holding of an assembly that busies busy men ! Ought not men of leisure, in sooth, to be chosen for that purpose? If these are not present at roll-call, the officers should immediately exact the penalty. There are enough men that eat but one meal a day, that have no business, that are not invited to dine out, and that do not entertain anybody. These ought to give their attention to assemblies and conventions.

Sí id ita esset, nón ego hodie pérdidissem prándium: 460
Quód tam credo deós uoluisse quám me uideo uíuere.
Íbo; etiamnum réliquiarum spés animum oblectát meum.
Séd quid ego uideó? Menaechmus cúm corona exít foras.
Súblatumst convívium: edepol uénio aduorsum témperi.
Óbseruabo, quíd agat, hominem: póst adibo atque ádloquar. 465

SCAENA V.

MENAECHMVS II. PENICVLVS.

Men. Potine út quiescas, si égo tibi hanc hodié probe
Lepidéque concinnátam referam témperi?
Non fáxo eam esse díces: ita ignorábitur.
Pen. Satúr nunc loquitur dé me et de partí mea:
Pallam ád phrygionem fért confecto prándio 470
Vinóque expoto, párasito exclusó foras.
Non hércle ego is sum quí sum, ni hanc iniúriam
Meque últus pulcre fúero. Obserua quíd dabo.
Men. Pro di ímmortales, quoí homini umquam unó die
Boní dedisti plús, qui minus speráuerit? 475
Prandí, potaui, scórtum accubui, ápstuli
Hanc, quóius heres númquam erit post húnc diem.
Pen. Nequeó, quae loquitur, éxaudire clánculum.
Men. Ait hánc dedisse mé sibi atque eam mé meae
Vxóri surrupuísse. Quoniam séntio 480

If this were so, I should not to-day have lost my dinner, which I believe the gods intended for me as firmly as that I see myself alive.

I shall go. Even yet does the hope of what is left delight my soul. But what do I see? Menaechmus is coming out with a chaplet. The banquet has been removed. By heavens, I have come just in time to fetch him home. I'll watch the man to see what he does ; then I'll go and speak to him.

SCENE V.

Enter MENAECHMUS II. (SOSICLES) *from the house of* EROTIUM. *He stands at the door and speaks to* EROTIUM *in the house.*

Men. Sos. Can't you be satisfied, if I bring this back to you to-day in good time tastefully and elegantly remodeled? I'll warrant that you will say it is not the same cloak, it will be so disguised.

Pen. (*Aside.*) He is now, after filling up, talking about me and my share (*going nearer*). He is carrying the mantle to the embroiderer's after the dinner is eaten, the wine drunk, and the parasite shut out of doors. By heavens, I am not the man I am, unless I handsomely avenge this injury to myself (*shaking his fist at him*). Watch what I give him.

Men. Sos. (*Starting from the door.*) Oh ye immortal gods ! to what man that hoped for less have you ever in one day given more blessings? I have eaten, I have drunk, I have banqueted with a woman. I have stolen this mantle, which she will never get again.

Pen. (*Aside.*) I can't from this place hear what he is saying.

Men. Sos. She says that I gave this to her and that I stole it from my wife. When I see that she is mistaken, imme-

Erráre, extemplo, quási res cum ea essét mihi,
Coepi ádsentari: múlier quicquid díxerat,
Idem égo dicebam. Quíd multis uerbís opust?
Minóre nusquam béne fui dispéndio.
Pen. Adíbo ad hominem: nám turbare géstio. 485
Men. Quis hic ést, qui aduorsus ít mihi? **Pen.** Quid aís, homo
Leuiór quam pluma, péssume et nequíssume,
Flagítium hóminis, súbdole ac minumí preti?
Quid dé te merui, quá me causa pérderes?
Quid súrrupuisti té mihi dudum dé foro, 490
Fecísti funus méd absenti prándio?
Cur aúsu's facere, quoí ego aeque herés eram?
Men. Aduléscens, quaeso, quíd tibi mecúmst rei,
Qui míhi male dicas hómini hic ignotó sciens?
An tíbi malam rem uís pro male dictís dari? 495
Pen. Istám quidem edepol té dedisse intéllego.
Men. Respónde, adulescens, quaéso, quid nomén tibist?
Pen. Etiám derides, quási nomen non nóueris?
Men. Non édepol ego te, quód sciam, umquam ante húnc diem
Vidí neque noui: uérum certo, quísquis es, 500
Aequóm si facias, míhi odiosus nón sies.
Pen. Non mé nouisti? **Men.** Nón negem, si nóuerim.
Pen. Menaéchme, uigila. **Men.** Vígilo hercle equidem, quod sciam.
Pen. Tuóm parasitum nón nouisti? **Men.** Nón tibi
Sanúm est, adulescens, sínciput, ut intéllego. 505

diately I begin to agree with her as if she were right. Whatever the woman said, the same said I. What's the use of talking? I never was so well off at less expense.

Pen. (*Aside.*) I shall go to the man, for I long to have a bout with him.

Men. Sos. Who is this coming at me?

Pen. What do you say, you man of less weight than a feather, you most villainous and most contemptible scandal of a fellow, you dead-beat and man of no account? Why have I deserved this at your hands? Why do you ruin me? Why did you sneak away from me a while ago in the Forum? Why have you consumed my dinner in my absence? Why did you dare to eat what was as much mine as it was yours?

Men. Sos. Young man, I beg of you, what business have I with you that you designedly insult me, a stranger here? Do you wish me to punish you for your insults?

Pen. Indeed I think, by Pollux, you have already punished me.

Men. Sos. Answer me, young fellow, I beg of you ; what is your name?

Pen. Do you even scoff at me? As if you didn't know my name !

Men. Sos. Truly, as far as I know, I never saw you before to-day, and I do not know you ; but certainly, whoever you are, if you do right, you will not abuse me.

Pen. Don't you know me?

Men. Sos. If I did know you I wouldn't deny it.

Pen. Menaechmus, wake up !

Men. Sos. By Hercules, I am indeed awake, so far as I know.

Pen. Don't you know your own parasite?

Men. Sos. Young man, your pate is not sound, I think.

Pen. Respónde: surrupuístin uxorí tuae
Pallam ístanc hodie atque éam dedisti Erótio?
Men. Neque hércle ego uxorem hábeo, neque ego Erótio
Dedí nec pallam súrrupui. **Pen.** Satin sánus es?
Occísast haec res. Nón ego te indutúm foras 510
Exíre uidi pállam? **Men.** Vae capití tuo.
Omnís cinaedos ésse censes, tú quia's?
Tun méd indutum fuísse pallam praédicas?
Pen. Ego hércle uero. **Men.** Nón tu abis, quo dígnus es, 515
Aut té piari iúbes, homo insaníssume?
Pen. Numquam édepol quisquam me éxorabit, quín tuae
Vxóri rem omnem iam, út siet gesta, éloquar.
Omnés in te istaec récident contuméliae.
Faxo haúd inultus prándium comédereis. 520
Men. Quid hoc ést negoti? Sátin, ut quemque cónspicor,
Ita mé ludificant? Séd concrepuit óstium.

SCAENA VI.

ANCILLA. MENAECHMVS II.

Anc. Menaéchme, amare aít te multum Erótium,
Vt hóc una opera iám ad aurificem déferas,
Atque húc ut addas aúri pondo únciam 525
Iubeásque spinter nóuom reconcinnárier.

Pen. Answer ; didn't you steal that mantle from your wife and give it to Erotium?

Men. Sos. No, by Hercules, I haven't a wife, and I didn't give it to Erotium ; and I did not steal the mantle.

Pen. Are you altogether sane? (*Aside.*) It is all up with me. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Didn't I see you come out of the house with the mantle on?

Men. Sos. Plague take your head ! Do you think everybody is a scoundrel because you are one? Do you say that I had the mantle on?

Pen. Most assuredly I do.

Men. Sos. Won't you go where you belong, or will you order a sacrifice made for you, you maniac?

Pen. By heavens, no one shall keep me from telling your wife the whole thing immediately just as it has occurred. All these insults will come back to you. I'll warrant you won't eat up my dinner and go unpunished (*he goes into the house of* MENAECHMUS *of* EPIDAMNUS).

Men. Sos. What does this business mean? Is it not evident that as soon as I get sight of any one, he begins to make sport of me? But the door is opening.

SCENE VI.

Enter a MAID *from the house of* EROTIUM *with a bracelet, which she gives to* MENAECHMUS.

Maid. Menaechmus, Erotium says that she earnestly begs you to take this bracelet with you to the goldsmith's and have an ounce of gold added to it and have it made over.

Men. Et istúc et aliud, sí quid curarí uolet,
Me cúraturum dícito, quicquíd uolet.
Anc. Scin, quód hoc sit spinter? **Men.** Néscio, nisi aúreum.
Anc. Hoc ést, quod olim clánculum ex armário 530
Te súrrupuisse aiébas uxorí tuae.
Men. Numquam hércle factumst. **Anc.** Nón meministi, te óbsecro?
Redde ígitur spinter, sí non meministí. **Men.** Mane.
Immo équidem memini: némpe hoc est quod illí dedi.
Anc. Istúc. **Men.** Vbi íllae armíllae, quas uná didi? 535
Anc. Numquám dedisti. **Men.** Nám pol cum hoc uná dedi.
Anc. Dicám curare? **Men.** Dícito: curábitur.
Et pálla et spinter fáxo referantúr simul.
Anc. Amábo, mi Menaéchme, inauris dá mihi, 540
Faciúnda pondo dúom nummúm stalágmia,
Vt té lubenter uídeam, quom ad nos uéneris.
Men. Fiát. Cedo aúrum: égo manúpretiúm dabo.
Anc. Da sódes aps ted: égo post reddideró tibi.
Men. Immó cedo aps te: égo post tibi reddám duplex. 545
Anc. Non hábeo. **Men.** At tu, quándo habebis, túm dato.
Anc. Numquíd uis? **Men.** Haec me cúraturum dícito,
Vt, quántum possint, quíque liceant, uéneant.
Iamne ábiit intro? Ábiit, operuít foris.
Di mé quidem omnes ádiuuant, augént, amant. 550
Sed quíd ego cesso, dúm datur mi occásio

Men. Sos. Tell her that I will attend to that and to anything else she may wish to have done.

Maid. Do you know what this bracelet is?

Men. Sos. I don't, unless it is gold.

Maid. It is the one that you said you stole from the jewel-box of your wife.

Men. Sos. By heavens, I never did it.

Maid. Don't you remember, I beseech you? Then give back the bracelet if you don't remember.

Men. Sos. Wait, oh ! yes, indeed, I do remember. To be sure, this is the one I gave her.

Maid. Yes, that's it.

Men. Sos. Where are the armlets that I gave with it?

Maid. You never gave any.

Men. Sos. Why, I certainly did, together with this.

Maid. Shall I say that you will do the errand?

Men. Sos. Yes, it will be attended to. I'll see that the mantle and bracelet are brought back together.

Maid. I beseech you, my dear Menaechmus, give me some ear-rings, with pendants of a half ounce in weight, so that I may be glad to see you when you come to our house.

Men. Sos. It shall be done. Give me the gold ; I will pay for the making.

Maid. Please give the gold yourself ; I will repay you.

Men. Sos. No, you give it yourself ; I'll give you back twice as much.

Maid. I haven't any.

Men. Sos. Well, when you get it, then give it.

Maid. Do you wish anything further? (*She goes into the house.*)

Men. Sos. Say that I shall attend to these things (*aside*), and as soon as possible they will be sold for what they will bring (*he looks around*). Has she now gone inside? She has gone, she has shut the door. (*Soliloquizes.*) Surely all the gods aid, prosper, love me. But why do I hesitate, while

Tempúsque, abire ab hís locis lenóniis?
Properá, Menaechme: fér pedem, profér gradum.
Demam háne coronam atque ábiciam ad laeuám manum,
Vt, sí sequentur me, hác abiisse cénseant. 555
Ibo ét conueniam séruom, si poteró, meum,
Vt haéc, quae bona dant dí mihi, ex me iám sciat.

opportunity and time are given me to get away from these procurers' dens? Hasten, Menaechmus, stir your steps, quicken your gait. I shall take off this chaplet and throw it to the left hand, so that if they follow me, they may think I have gone off in this way. I'll go and find my slave if I can, that he may know at once from me of the good things that the gods give me. (*Exit.*)

ACTVS III.

SCAENA I.

MATRONA. PENICVLVS.

Mat. Egone híc me patiar ésse in matrimónio,
Vbi uír compilet clánculum, quicquíd domist,
Atque híne ad amicam déferat? **Pen.** Quin tú taces? 560
Manufésto faxo iam ópprimes: sequere hác modo.
Pallam ád phrygionem cúm corona ébrius
Ferébat, hodie tíbi quam surrupuít domo.
Sed eccám coronam, quám habuit. Num méntior?
Em, hac ábiit, si uis pérsequi uestígiis. 565
Atque édepol eccum ipse óptume reuórtitur,
Sed pállam non fert. **Mat.** Quíd ego nunc cum illóc agam?
Pen. Idém quod semper: mále habeas. **Mat.** Sic cénseo.
Pen. Huc cóncedámus: éx insidiis aúcupa.

ACT III.

SCENE I.

Enter the WIFE *of* MENAECHMUS *of Epidamnus from her house with* PENICULUS

Wife. Shall I consent to remain in wedlock, when my husband secretly steals whatever is at home and carries it off to his mistress?

Pen. Why don't you be quiet? I'll warrant you will soon catch him in the act ; just follow this way. Drunk, and crowned with a chaplet, he was carrying to the embroiderer's the mantle that he stole from you to-day at home. (*Sees the chaplet.*) But lo ! here is the chaplet that he had. Do I lie? See, he has gone this way, if you want to follow him by his tracks. (*Spies* MENAECHMUS *of Epidamnus.*) But, by heavens, see there ! he is coming back at a very opportune time ; but he doesn't bring the mantle.

Wife. What shall I now do with him?

Pen. The same as usual ; scold him.

Wife. I think I shall do so.

Pen. Let us step aside here and watch him from ambush (*they withdraw to the back of the stage*).

SCAENA II.

MENAECHMVS I. MATRONA. PENICVLVS.

Men. Vt hóc útimúr máxumé móre móró 570
Moléstóque múltum, átque utí quíque súnt
Óptumí, máxumé mórem habént húnc: cluéntís
Sibi ómnís uolúnt ésse múltós: boníne án
Malí sínt, id haúd quaéritánt. Rés magís
Quaéritúr, quám cluéntúm fidés quóius modí 575
Clueát. Si ést paúper átque haúd malús, néquam habétúr
Sin díués malúst, ís cluéns frúgi habétúr.
Quí neque légés neque aéquóm bonum úsquám colúnt,
Sóllícitós patrónós habént,
Datúm dénegánt, quód datúmst: 580
Lítiúm pléní, rapácés,
Virí fraúdulénti,
Qui aút faénore aút périúriís
Habént rém parátám: mens ést ín querélís.
Iurís ubi dicitúr dies, simúl patronis dícitur: 585
Quippe qui pro illis loquantur, quae male fecerint:
Aut ád populum aut ín iure aut ád iudicém rest.
Sícut me hodie nímis sollicitum clúens quidam habuit, neque quod uolui
Ágere aut quicum uólui licitumst: íta me attinuit, íta detinuit.

SCENE II.

Enter MENAECHMUS OF EPIDAMNUS *from the Forum*

Men. of Epidamnus. (*Soliloquizes.*) How very subservient we are to this silly and very troublesome custom, and how those of the highest rank are especially given over to it ! All wish to have many clients, but whether good or bad they do not inquire. There is question in regard to the property rather than to the character of the clients. If one is poor but honest, he is considered worthless ; if rich and wicked, he is considered a valuable client. Those who do not regard the laws nor justice nor right have considerate patrons. Such clients are false to trusts bestowed upon them. They are given to litigation, are greedy, tricky men, who have acquired property by usury or perjury. Their interest is in quarrels. When the day is appointed for trial, their patrons must defend them, forsooth, for the crimes they have committed. The case is tried either before the people, or a justice, or a judge.

Thus a certain client has kept me very busy to-day ; he has not allowed me to do what I wished, nor to be with whom I wished, he has so stuck to me and delayed me. I pleaded

Áput aediles pró eius fáctis plúrumisque péssumisque 590
Díxi causam: cóndiciones tétuli tortas, cónfragosas.
Haúd plus, haud minús quam opus fúerat díxi, eam controvórsiam ut
Spónsio finíret. Quid ille ignávos? quid? Praedém dedit.
Néc magis manuféstum ego hominem úmquam ullum ténéri uidi:
Ómnibus male fáctis testes trés aderant acérrumi. 595
Di illum ómnes perdant: íta mi hunc optumum hódie corrupít diem:
Meque ádeo, qui hodié forum umquam óculis inspexí meis.
Vbi prímum licitumst, ílico properáui abire dé foro.
Iussi ádparari prándium: amíca exspectat mé, scio:
Irátast credo núnc mihi: placábit palla quám dedi. 600
Quam méae hodie úxori ábstuli átque huic détulí Erótió.
Pen. Quid aís? **Mat.** Viro me malo mále nuptam. **Pen.** Satin aúdis quae illic lóquitur?
Mat. Satis. **Men.** Sí sapiam, hinc intro ábeam, ubi mihi bene sít. **Pen.** Mane: male erit pótius.
Men. Trístis admodúmst; non mihi istuc sátis placet, sed cónloquar.
Díc, mea uxor, quíd tibi aegrest? **Pen.** Béllus blanditúr tibi. 605
Men. Pótin ut mihi moléstus ne sis? núm te appello? **Mat.** Aufér manum,
Aúfer hinc palpátiones. **Pen.** Pérge tu! **Men.** Quid tú mihi

the case before the aediles in defence of his very many wicked deeds. I obtained a settlement on complicated and difficult conditions. I said neither more nor less than was necessary, in order that the judicial wager might end the controversy. What did the fool do ! What? he gave bond ! I never saw a man more completely entangled. There were present three very damaging witnesses of all his misdeeds. May all the gods destroy him who has so spoiled this fine day for me, and me too, for ever turning my eyes toward the Forum to-day !

As soon as I could, I hastened to leave the Forum. I have ordered a dinner to be prepared. My mistress awaits me, I know. I suppose she will now be angry at me. The mantle that I gave her will appease her.

Pen. (*Apart to the* WIFE.) What do you say?

Wife. (*Apart.*) That unfortunately I am married to a wicked husband.

Pen. (*Apart.*) Do you hear perfectly what he says?

Wife. (*Apart.*) Perfectly.

Men. (*Soliloquizes.*) If I am wise, I shall go inside the house where it will be pleasant for me (*he starts to* EROTIUM'S *door*).

Pen. Stop ! it will rather be unpleasant.

Men. Who, pray, is this speaking? (*Turns and looks.*) What do I see ! la ! there is my wife with my parasite standing before the door blocking my way, and she is so glum ! That does not at all suit me, but I'll speak to her. Say, wife, what grieves you?

Pen. (*To the* WIFE.) The pretty man is cajoling you.

Men. (*To* PENICULUS.) Can't you stop bothering me? Am I speaking to you? (*Puts his hand on his wife's arm.*)

Wife. (*Pushing him away.*) Take your hand off, away with your caresses!

Pen. (*To the* WIFE.) Keep it up.

Men. (*To the* WIFE.) Why are you out of humor with me?

Trístis es? **Mat.** Te scíre oportet. **Pen.** Scít, sed dissimulát malus.

Men. Númquis seruorúm deliquit? num áncillae aut seruí tibi

Résponsant? Elóquere: impune nón erit. **Mat.** Nugás agis. 610

Men. Cérte familiárium aliquoi írata's? **Mat.** Nugás agis.

Men. Núm mihi es iráta saltem? **Mat.** Núnc tu non nugás agis.

Men. Nón edepol delíqui quicquam. **Mat.** Em, rúrsum nunc nugás agis.

Men. Quíd illuc est, uxór, negoti? **Mat.** Mén rogas? **Men.** Vin húnc rogem?

Quíd negotist? **Mat.** Pállam. **Men.** Pallam? quídnam pallam? **Pen.** Quíd paues? 615

Men. Níl equidem paueó — nisi unum: pálla pallorem íncutit.

Pen. Át tu ne clam mé comessis prándium. Perge ín uirum.

Men. Nón taces? **Pen.** Non hércle uero táceo. Nutat né loquar.

Men. Nón hercle ego quidem úsquam quicquam núto neque nictó tibi.

Pen. Níhil hoc confidéntiust, qui, quaé uides, ea pérnegat. 620

Men. Pér Iouem deosque ómnis adiuro, úxor, — satin hoc ést tibi? —

Wife. You ought to know.

Pen. He does know, but the scoundrel dissembles.

Men. Have any of the slaves been remiss in their duty? Do the maids or men-servants talk back to you? Speak, it shall not go unpunished.

Wife. You are talking nonsense.

Men. Surely you are angry at some of the household.

Wife. You are talking nonsense.

Men. Certainly you are not angry at me?

Wife. Now you are not talking nonsense.

Men. By heavens, I haven't been remiss in anything.

Wife. Ah! now again you are talking nonsense.

Men. What does this mean, wife?

Wife. Do you ask me?

Men. (*Pointing to* PENICULUS.) Do you wish me to ask him? What does this mean?

Wife. The mantle.

Men. The mantle? what mantle, pray?

Pen. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Why are you frightened?

Men. Indeed I am not frightened, (*aside*) except in one particular, the *palla* makes me pallid.

Pen. Well, don't eat up my dinner then, when I am away. (*To the* WIFE.) Go at your husband.

Men. (*Motions to* PENICULUS.) Can't you be still?

Pen. No, by heavens, indeed I won't be still. (*To the* WIFE.) He nods to me not to speak. (WIFE *turns quickly on* MENAECHMUS.)

Men. Indeed, by Hercules, I never nodded at all nor winked to you.

Pen. Nothing could be more shameless than this fellow, who denies the things that you yourself see.

Men. I swear, wife, by Jupiter and all the gods — isn't that enough for you?

Mé isti non nutásse. **Pen.** Credit iám tibi de isto : illúc redi.

Men. Quó ego redeam? **Pen.** Ad phrýgionem equidem cénseo. I, pallám refer.

Men. Quaé istaec pallast? **Pen.** Táceo iam, quando híc rem non meminít suam.

Mat. Clánculum te istaéc flagitia fácere censebás potis? 625

Né illam ecastor faénerato ábstulisti. Síc datur.

Pen. Síc datur. Properáto apsente mé comesse prándium :

Póst ante aedis cúm corona mé derideto ébrius.

Men. Néque edepol ego prándi neque hodie húc intro tetulí pedem.

Pen. Tú negas? **Men.** Nego hércle uero. **Pen.** Níhil hoc homine audáciust. 630

Nón ego te modo híc ante aedis cúm corona flórea

Vídi astare, quóm negabas míhi esse sanum sínciput

Ét negabas mé nouisse, péregrinum aibas ésse te?

Men. Quín ut dudum déuorti abs te, rédeo nunc demúm domum.

Pen. Nóui ego te. Non míhi censebas ésse, qui te ulcíscerer : 635

Ómnia hercle uxóri dixi. **Men.** Quíd dixisti? **Pen.** Néscio.

Eámpse roga. **Men.** Quid hóc est, uxor? quídnam hic narrauít tibi?

Quíd id est? quid tacés? quin dicis quíd sit? **Mat.** Quasi tu néscias.

I didn't nod to that fellow.

Pen. She believes you in regard to that, return thither.

Men. To what place shall I return?

Pen. I think, forsooth, to the embroiderer's. Go, bring back the mantle.

Men. What mantle is that?

Pen. I am silent now, since he doesn't know his own property.

Wife. Did you think you could commit these outrages in secret? In truth you have certainly carried this off at heavy interest. (*She pushes him.*) Take that.

Pen. (*Strikes at him.*) Take that. Be in a hurry to eat up my dinner, while I am away, and afterward, while drunk and crowned with a chaplet, scoff at me in front of the house.

Men. By Pollux, I haven't dined, nor have I put a foot in here to-day.

Pen. Do you deny it?

Men. In truth, I certainly do deny it.

Pen. Nothing is more brazen than this fellow. Didn't I see you standing here before the house awhile ago, with a floral wreath on your head, when you kept saying I hadn't a sound pate, and denying you knew me, and saying you were a stranger?

Men. No, but I left you a little while ago, and I am now just returning home.

Pen. I know you. You didn't think I was the one to take vengeance on you. By Hercules, I have told everything to your wife.

Men. What have you told?

Pen. I don't know, ask her.

Men. What is this, wife? What, pray, has he told you? What is it? Why are you silent? Why don't you say what it is?

Wife. Just as if you didn't know!

Né ego ecastor múlier misera. **Men.** Quíd tu misera's? mi̇ expedi.

Mat. Mé rogas? **Men.** Pol haúd rogem te, sí sciam.

Pen. O hominém malum: 640

Vt dissimulat. nón potes celáre: rem nouít probe:

Ómnia hercle ego édictaui. **Men.** Quíd id est? **Mat.** Quando níl pudet

Néque uis tua uolúntate ipse prófiteri, aúdi átque ades.

Ét quid tristis sim ét quid hic mihi díxerit, faxó scias.

Pálla mihist domó surrupta. **Men.** Pálla surruptást mihi? 645

Pen. Víden ut te sceléstus captat? Huíc surruptast, nón tibi:

Nám profecto tíbi surrupta si ésset, salua núnc foret.

Men. Níl mihi tecumst. Séd tu quid ais? **Mat.** Pálla, inquam, periít domo.

Men. Quís eam surrupuít? **Mat.** Pol istuc ílle scit qui illam ápstulit.

Men. Quís is homost? **Mat.** Menaéchmus quidam. **Men.** Édepol factum néquiter. 650

Quís is Menaechmust? **Mat.** Tú istic, inquam. **Men.** Égone? **Mat.** Tu. **Men.** Quis árguit?

Mat. Égomet. **Pen.** Et ego: atque huíc amicae détulisti Erótio.

Men. Égon dedi? **Pen.** Tu, tú istic, inquam. Vín adferri nóctuam,

Quaé tu tu usque dícat tibi? nam nós iam defessí sumus.

Surely I am a wretched woman.

Men. Why are you wretched? Explain to me.

Wife. Do you ask me?

Men. Surely I shouldn't ask you, if I knew.

Pen. Oh! villainous man, how he dissembles! You can't conceal it, she knows all about it. By heavens, I have told everything.

Men. (*To the* WIFE.) What does this mean?

Wife. Since you are ashamed of nothing and do not wish to confess of your own accord, attend and hear: A mantle has been stolen from me at home.

Men. A mantle has been stolen from me?

Pen. (*To the* WIFE.) Do you see how the scoundrel catches you up? (*To* MENAECHMUS.) It was stolen from her, not from you; for certainly, if it had been stolen from you it would now be safe.

Men. (*To* PENICULUS.) I have nothing to do with you. (*To his* WIFE.) But what do you say?

Wife. A mantle, I say, has disappeared from the house.

Men. Who stole it?

Wife. In sooth, he who took it away, knows that.

Men. Who is the man? **Wife.** One Menaechmus.

Men. By heavens, it was a villainous deed. Who is that Menaechmus?

Wife. You are he. **Men.** I? **Wife.** You.

Men. Who accuses me?

Wife. I, to be sure.

Pen. And I; and you carried it off to your mistress, Erotium.

Men. Did I give it to her?

Pen. You, you I say. Do you want an owl brought here to say you-ooh, you-ooh, continually to you? We are now worn out.

Men. Pér Iouem deosque ómnis adiuro, úxor, — satin hoc ést tibi? — 655

Nón dedisse. **Pen.** Immo hércle uero nós, non falsum dícere.

Men. Séd ego illam non cóndonaui, séd sic utendám dedi.

Mat. Équidem ecastor túam nec chlamydem dó foras nec pállium

Quoíquam utendum. Múlierem aequomst uéstimentum múliebre

Dáre foras, uirúm uirile. Quín refers pallám domum? 660

Men. Égo faxo referétur. **Mat.** Ex re túa, ut opinor, féceris:

Nám domum numquam íntro ibis, nísi feres pallám simul.

Éo domum. **Pen.** Quid míhi futurumst, quí tibi hanc operám dedi?

Mat. Ópera reddetúr, quando quid tíbi erit surruptúm domo.

Pen. Íd quidem edepol númquam erit: nam níhil est, quod perdám, domi. 665

Quá uirum qua uxórem di uos pérdant. Properabo ád forum:

Nam éx hac familiá me plane éxcidisse intéllego.

Men. Mále mi uxor sesé fecisse cénset, quom exclusít foras:

Quási non habeam, quo íntro mittar, álium meliorém locum.

Sí tibi displiceó, patiundum: at plácuero huic Erótio. 670

Men. I swear to you, wife, by Jupiter and all the gods — isn't that enough for you? — I didn't give it.

Pen. But we swear, by Hercules indeed, that we are telling the truth.

Men. But I didn't give it away for good, but simply lent it to be used.

Wife. Well, in faith, I don't give away your cape or cloak to any one to use. It is right for the woman to give away woman's clothing ; the man the man's. Why don't you bring the mantle home?

Men. I'll warrant you it shall be brought home.

Wife. You will do it, as I think, for your own sake ; for you shall never enter the house unless you bring the mantle with you. I'm going home.

Pen. What is going to be done for me, who has done you this favor?

Wife. The favor will be returned when anything is stolen from your house (*she goes in*).

Pen. Well, by heavens, that will never be, for I have nothing at home to lose. May the gods destroy both man and wife ! I'll be off to the Forum, for I see plainly that I have fallen out with this family (*exit*).

Men. (*Soliloquizes.*) My wife thinks she has spited me, when she shuts me out of doors. Just as if I didn't have another better place to go (*shaking his fist at the door*). If I displease you, I must endure it ; but I shall please Erotium here.

Quáe me non exclúdet ab se, séd apud se occludét domi.
Núnc ibo, orabo út mihi pallam réddat, quam dudúm dedi.
Áliam illi redimám meliorem. Heus, écquis hic est iánitor?
Áperite atque Erótium aliquis éuocate ante óstium.

SCAENA III.

Erotivm. Menaechmvs I.

Ero. Quís hic me quaerit? **Men.** Síbi inimicus mágis quist quam aetatí tuae. 675

Ero. Mí Menaechme, cúr ante aedis ástas? Sequere intró. **Men.** Mane.

Scín quid est, quod ego ád te uenio? **Ero.** Scío, ut tibi ex me sít uolup.

Men. Ímmo edepol pallam íllam, amabo té, quam tibi dudúm dedi,

Míhi eam redde: uxór resciuit rem ómnem, ut factumst, órdine.

Égo tibi redimám bis tanto plúris pallam, quóm uoles. 680

Ero. Tíbi dedi equidem illam, ád phrygionem út ferres, pauló prius,

Ét illud spinter, út ad aurificem férres, ut fierét nouom.

Men. Míhi tu ut dederis pállam et spinter? Númquam factum réperies.

Nam égo quidem postquam íllam dudum tíbi dedi atque abii ád forum,

She will not shut me out away from her, but will shut me up in the house with her. Now I shall go and ask her to return the mantle that I just gave to her. I'll buy her another better one. (*At the door of* EROTIUM'S *house.*) Hallo! is there any door-keeper here? Open, and some one call Erotium to the door.

SCENE III.

Enter EROTIUM *from her house.*

Ero. Who seeks me here?

Men. One more unfriendly to himself than to you.

Ero. My dear Menaechmus, why do you stand before the door? Follow me inside.

Men. Wait, do you know why I come to you?

Ero. I know, that you may enjoy yourself with me.

Men. No, not at all; that mantle which I just gave you, I beg you to return to me. My wife has found out the whole thing just as it happened. I will buy you one worth twice as much, when you wish it.

Ero. Indeed, I gave the mantle to you a little while ago, that you might take it to the embroiderer's ; and I gave you a bracelet to take to the goldsmith's to have it made over.

Men. Did you really give me the mantle and bracelet? You'll find it was never done ; for I indeed, after I gave it to you a while ago, went off to the Forum, and am just

Núnc redeo, nunc té postillac uídeo. **Ero.** Video, quám rem agis: 685
Quaé conmisi, ut mé defrudes, ád eam rem adfectás uiam.
Men. Néque edepol to défrudandi caúsa posco: quín tibi
Díco uxorem résciuisse. **Ero.** Néc te ultro oraui út dares:
Túte ultro ad me détulisti, dédisti eam donó mihi:
Eándem nunc repóscis. Patiar: tíbi habeto, aufer: útere 690
Vél tu, uel tua úxor, uel etiam ín loculos conpíngite.
Tu húc post hunc diém pedem intro nón feres, ne frústra sis:
Quándo tu me béne merentem tíbi habes despicátui.
Nísi feres argéntum, frustra's: mé ductare nón potes.
Áliam posthac ínuenito, quám habeas frustrátui. 695
Men. Nímis hercle iracúnde tandem. Heús tu, tibi dicó, mane.
Rédi. Etiamne astás? etiam audes méa reuorti grátia?
Ábiit intro, occlúsit aedis. Núnc ego sum exclusíssumus:
Néque domi neque ápud amicam míhi iam quidquam créditur.
Íbo et consulam hánc rem amicos, quíd faciundum cénseant. 700

returning, and now see you for the first time since then.

Ero. I see what you are up to ; you are trying to find a way to cheat me out of what you gave me.

Men. By my faith, I don't ask this in order to cheat you, but I tell you my wife has found it out.

Ero. I did not ask you to give me the mantle, you voluntarily brought it to me. You gave it to me as a gift. Now you ask it back. I shall permit you to take it. Keep it for yourself. Take it away. Use it, either you or your wife, or lock it up in your chest. Don't flatter yourself ! After to-day you shall never put foot in here, since you despise me, who deserve so much at your hands. Unless you bring money, you are left out in the cold. You can't fool me. Find some other woman to deceive (*she goes into the house*).

Men. In sooth, at last quite angry. Hallo, you! I say, wait ! Come back ! Won't you even stop? Won't you even turn around for my sake? She has gone in. She has shut the doors. Now I am very muchly shut out ; and now I'm not believed at all, either at home nor with my mistress. I'll go and consult my friends in regard to this matter, as to what they think ought to be done. (*Exit.*)

ACTVS IV.

SCAENA I.

MENAECHMVS II. MATRONA.

Men. Nimis stúlte dudum féci, quom marsúppium
Messénioni cum árgento concrédidi.
Immérsit aliquo sése credo in gáneum.
Mat. Prouísam, quam mox uír meus redeát domum.
Sed éccum uideo: sálua sum, pallám refert. 705
Men. Demíror, ubi nunc ámbulet Messénio.
Mat. Adíbo atque hominem accípiam quibus dictís meret.
Non té pudet prodíre in conspectúm meum,
Flagítium hominis, cúm istoc órnatú? **Men.** Quid est?
Quae té res agitat, múlier? **Mat.** Etiamne, ínpudens, 710
Muttíre uerbum unum aúdes aut mecúm loqui?
Men. Quid tándem admisi in me, út loqui non aúdeam?
Mat. Rogás me? o hominis ínpudentem audáciam.
Men. Non tú scis, mulier, Hécubam quaproptér canem
Graii ésse praedicábant? **Mat.** Non equidém scio. 715
Men. Quia idém faciebat Hécuba, quod tu núnc facis.
Omniá mala íngerébat, quemquem aspéxerat:
Itaque ádeo iure coépta appellaríst canes.
Mat. Non égo istaec tua flagítia possum pérpeti:
Nam méd aetatem uíduam hic esse máuelim, 720
Quam istaéc flagitia túa pati, quae tú facis.

ACT IV.

SCENE I.

Enter MENAECHMUS SOSICLES *from the Forum, and immediately afterward, the* WIFE *of* MENAECHMUS *of Epidamnus enters from her house.*

Men. Sos. (*Soliloquizes.*) I acted very foolishly awhile ago, when I entrusted the purse with the money to Messenio. He has, I suppose, slipped into some low house.

Wife. I'll look out to see how soon my husband is coming back home. But, ah ! I see him. I am saved ; he is bringing back the mantle.

Men. Sos. I wonder where Messenio is strolling about now?

Wife. I'll go and welcome the man with such language as he deserves. Aren't you ashamed to appear in my sight, you scandal of a fellow, with that costume?

Men. Sos. What is it ; what disturbs you, woman?

Wife. Do you dare to mutter even a single word, impudence ! or speak to me?

Men. Sos. What, pray, have I done, that I dare not speak to you?

Wife. Do you ask me? Oh ! the shameless insolence of the man !

Men. Sos. Do you know, woman, why the Greeks used to say that Hecuba was a dog?

Wife. Indeed, I don't know.

Men. Sos. Because Hecuba used to do the same thing that you are now doing ; she used to heap all sorts of insults on whomsoever she met, and therefore justly she began to be called a dog.

Wife. I'll not stand this shameless conduct of yours ! I would prefer to live here as a widow all my life rather than endure the insults that you heap upon me.

Men. Quid id ád me, tu te núptam possis pérpeti,
An sís abitura a túo uiro? An mos híc itast,
Peregríno ut adueniénti narrent fábulas?
Mat. Quas fábulas? Non, ínquam, patiar praéterhac, 725
Quin uídua uiuam, quám tuos mores pérferam.
Men. Meá quidem hercle caúsa uidua uíuito
Vel úsque dum regnum óptinebit Iúppiter.
Mat. Ne istúc mecastor iám patrem arcessám meum
Atque éi narrabo túa flagitia quaé facis. 730
I, Décio, quaere meúm patrem, tecúm simul
Vt uéniat ad me: ita rém natam esse dícito.
Iam ego áperiam istaec túa flagitia. **Men.** Sánan es?
Quae méa flagitia? **Mat.** Pállas atque aurúm meum
Domó suppilas tú tuae uxori ét tuae 735
Degéris amicae. Sátin haec recte fábulor?
Men. Heu, hércle, mulier, múltum et audax ét mala es.
Tun tíbi hanc surruptam dícere audes, quám mihi
Dedit ália mulier, út concinnandám darem?
Mat. Haud míhi negabas dúdum surrupuísse te: 740
Nunc eándem ante oculos áttines? Non té pudet?
Men. Quaeso hércle, mulier, sí scis, monstra quód bibam,
Tuám qui possim pérpeti petulántiam.
Quem tú med hominem esse árbitrere, néscio:
Ego té simitu nóui cum Portháone. 745
Mat. Si mé derides, át pol illum nón potes,
Patrém meum, qui huc áduenit. Quin réspicis?
Nouístin tu illum? **Men.** Nóui cum Calchá simul:
Eodém die illum uídi, quo te ante húnc diem.

Men. Sos. What's that to me, whether you can stand it to live in wedlock or are going to separate from your husband? Is such the custom here, to talk gossip to a stranger as soon as he meets you?

Wife. What gossip? I will not, I say, bear it any longer, but will live as a widow rather than put up with your behavior.

Men. Sos. By Hercules, as far as I at least am concerned, you may live as a widow even as long as Jupiter retains the kingship!

Wife. In Castor's name I shall certainly summon my father immediately and tell him of the outrages that you perpetrate. (*Calls into the house.*) Go, Decio, hunt up my father, and have him come with you to me. Tell him that I need him. (*Decio enters from the house and goes out to the right. To* MENAECHMUS.) I'll expose those wicked acts of yours.

Men. Sos. What wicked acts of mine?

Wife. You steal mantles and gold from your wife at home, and carry them off to your mistress. Do I state these points quite correctly?

Men. Sos. Bah! by heavens, woman, you are very insolent and wicked. Do you dare say this was stolen from you, which another woman gave to me to have trimmed?

Wife. Awhile ago you did not deny that you had stolen it from me. Do you bring the same thing before my eyes now? Aren't you ashamed of yourself?

Men. Sos. In sooth, woman, if you can, give me some patience potion that I may be able to endure your insolence. What man you think I am, I know not. I got acquainted with you at the same time that I did with Porthaon.

Wife. (*Seeing her father coming.*) Even if you mock me, still you surely cannot mock him, my father, who is coming hither. Why don't you look back? Don't you know him?

Men. Sos. I know him as well as I do Calchas. I saw him the same day on which I saw you before to-day.

Mat. Negás nouisse mé? negas patrém meum? 750
Men. Idem hércle dicam, sí auom uis addúcere.
Mat. Ecástor pariter hóc atque alias rés soles.

SCAENA II.

SENEX. MATRONA. MENAECHMVS II.

Sen. Vt aétás meást átque ut hóc úsus fáctóst,
Gradúm próferám, prógredírí properábó.
Sed íd quám mihí fácile sít, haúd sum fálsús. 755
Nam pérnícitás déserít: cónsitús súm
Senéctúte: onústúm geró córpus: uírés
Relíquére. Ut aétás mala mérs ést mala térgó!
Nam rés plúrumás péssumás, quom áduenít,
Adfért, quás si aútumem ómnís, nimís lóngus sérmóst. 760
Sed haéc rés mihi ín péctore ét córde cúraést,
Quidnam hóc sít negótí, quod fílía síc
Repénte éxpetít mé, ut ád sése írém.
Néc quíd id sít mihí, cértiús facít,
Quód uelít, quod mé arcéssat. 765
Verúm própemodúm iám sció, quíd siét reí:
Credó cúm uiró lítigiúm nátum esse áliquod.
Ita ístaéc solént, quaé uirós súbseruíré
Sibí póstulánt, dóte frétaé, ferócés.
Et íllí quoque haúd ábstinént saépe cúlpá. 770

Wife. Do you deny that you know me? Do you deny that you know my father?

Men. Sos. By Hercules, I shall say the same thing, if you want to bring on your grandfather.

Wife. By Castor, you act in this just as you do in other matters.

SCENE II.

Enter an OLD MAN.

Old Man. (*Soliloquizes.*) As much as my age permits, and because I must do so, I quicken my pace and hasten on. But as to how easy it is for me I am not deceived, for my nimbleness forsakes me, I am beset with old age. My body is weighed down with years, my strength has left me. What a heavy pack is heavy old age on one's back! for when it comes, it brings very many very serious troubles. If I should name all, my speech would be too long.

But I am greatly troubled in mind and heart as to what it means that my daughter so suddenly desires me to come to her. And she does not inform me what she wishes, why she summons me. But now I almost know what it is. I suppose some quarrel with her husband has occurred. Such is the custom of these women who insolently relying upon their dowries ask that their husbands be subservient to them. And the husbands are often not free from fault ; but never-

Verúmst módus tamén, quoád pati úxórem opórtét,
Nec pól fília úmquám patrem árcéssit ád sé,
Nisi aút quíd commísít uir aút iúrgi est causá.
Sed íd quícquid ést, iám sciam. Átque éccam eámpsé
Ante aédís et éiús uirúm uídeo trístém. 775
Id ést, quod súspicábar.
Áppellabo hanc. **Mat.** Íbo aduorsum. Sálue multum, mí pater.
Sen. Sálua sis. saluén aduenio? Sáluen arcessí iubes?
Quíd tu tristis és? quid ille autem ábs te iratus déstitit?
Néscio quid uos uélitati éstis inter uós duo. 780
Lóquere, uter meruístis culpam, paúcis: non longós logos.
Mat. Núsquam equidem quicquám deliqui: hoc prímum te absoluó, pater:
Vérum uiuere híc non possum néque durare ulló modo:
Proín tu me hinc abdúcas. **Sen.** Quid istuc aútemst.
Mat. Ludibrió, pater,
Hábeor. **Sen.** Vnde? **Mat.** Ab íllo, quoi me mándauisti, méo uiro. 785
Sen. Écce autem litígium. Quotieńs tándem ego edixí tibi,
Vt caueres, néuter ad me irétis cum querimónia?
Mat. Quí ego istuc, mi páter, cauere possum? **Sen.** Men intérrogas?
Nísi non uis. . . . Quotiéns monstraui tíbi, uiro ut morém geras?
Quíd ille faciat, né id obserues, quó eat, quid rerúm gerat. 790
Mat. Át enim ille hinc amát meretrícem ex próxumo.
Sen. Sané sapit:

theless, there is a limit up to which a woman ought to endure, and in truth, a daughter never summons her father to her, unless her husband has done her an injustice that gives reason for the strife. But whatever it is, I shall soon know. But, lo ! I see her before the door, and her husband, who is in a bad humor. It is as I suspected ; I'll speak to her.

Wife. I shall go to meet him. Health to you, Father.

Old Man. Health to you ! Do I find you in health ; do you in health have me summoned? Why are you glum ; and why, too, does he in anger stand apart from you? You two have been squabbling about something. Tell me in a few words which of you deserves blame ; no long stories !

Wife. I have not been at all remiss. Free your mind of that idea at once, Father ; but I cannot live here, nor put up with this in any way. Do you, therefore, take me away from here.

Old Man. But what does this mean?

Wife. I am made sport of, Father.

Old Man. By whom?

Wife. By him, to whom you gave me, my husband.

Old Man. Hallo ! a quarrel indeed! How often, pray, have I told you to be careful that neither of you should be coming to me with complaints !

Wife. How can I, Father, be careful of that?

Old Man. Do you ask me? I' Pollux' name, if you were wise, you would know well enough for yourself what ought to be done, unless you did not wish to know. How many times have I told you that you should yield to your husband? Don't be watching what he does, where he goes, what his business is.

Wife. But, indeed, he is making love to a woman close by here.

Old Man. He is indeed wise, and on account of that busy

Átque ob instanc indústriam etiam fáxo amabit ámplius.
Mat. Atque ibi potat. **Sen.** Túa quidem ille caúsa potabít minus,
Sí illic, siue alibí lubebit? Quáe haec malum ímpudéntiast?
Vna opera prohibére, ad cenam né promittat, póstules, 795
Néue quemquam áccipiát aliénum apúd se. Seruirín tibi
Póstulas uirós? Dare una ópera pensum póstules,
Ínter ancillás sedere iúbeas, lanam cárere.
Mat. Nón equidem mihi te áduocatum, páter, adduxi, séd uiro:
Híne stas, illim caúsam dicis. **Sen.** Sí ille quid delíquerit, 800
Múlto tanto illum áccusabo, quám te accusaui, ámplius.
Quándo te auratam ét uestitam béne habet, ancillás, penum
Récte praehibet, méliust sanam, múlier, mentem súmere.
Mat. Át ille suppilát mihi aurum et pállas ex arcís domo:
Mé despoliat, méa ornamenta clam ád meretrices dégerit. 805
Sen. Mále facit, si istúc facit: si nón facit, tu mále facis,
Quae ínsontem insimulés. **Mat.** Quin etiam núnc habet pallám, pater,
Ét spinter, quod ad hánc detulerat: núnc, quia resciuí, refert.
Sen. Iám ego ex hoc, ut fáctumst, scibo: adíbo ad hominem atque ádloquar.
Díc mi istuc, Menaéchme, quid uos díscertatis, út sciam. 810
Quíd tu tristis és? quid illa autem ábs te irata déstitit?
Men. Quísquis es, quicquíd tibi nomen ést, senex: summúm Ioucm

meddling of yours, I'll warrant he will love her even more.

Wife. And he drinks there.

Old Man. Will he, indeed, for your sake, drink less, either there or elsewhere, if he chooses? What impudence is this, confound it! By the same reasoning you may demand the right of prohibiting him from accepting an invitation to dine, or from receiving any one at his house. Do you demand that husbands be subservient to you? By the same reasoning you may demand the right of assigning him a task; you may order him to sit down among the maid-servants and card wool.

Wife. I have brought you, Father, as an advocate not indeed for myself but for my husband. You stand on my side, you plead his case.

Old Man. If he has been remiss in anything, I'll censure him more than I have censured you. Since he provides you well with jewelry and clothing, and supplies you fully with maids and with provision, it is better, woman, to entertain reasonable sentiments.

Wife. But he steals gold and mantles of mine from the chests at home; he robs me, and secretly carries my ornaments to courtesans.

Old Man. He does wrong if he does that; if he does not, you do wrong in accusing an innocent man.

Wife. But even now he has the mantle, Father, and the bracelet which he had taken away to her. Now, because I found it out, he brings it back.

Old Man. I shall soon know from him what has been done; I'll go to the man and speak to him (*he approaches* MENAECHMUS). Tell me this, Menaechmus, that I may know: what are you two quarrelling about; why are you in ill-humor; why does she, too, stand apart from you in anger?

Men. Sos. Whoever you are, whatever your name is, old man, I offer as witnesses Supreme Jupiter and the gods —

Déosque do testís. **Sen.** Qua de re aut quóius rei rerum
ómnium?
Men. Mé neque isti mále fecisse múlieri, quae me árguit
Hánc domo ab se súrrupuisse . . . 815
. . . . atque ábstulisse déierat.
Sí ego intra aedes húius umquam, ubi hábitat, penetrauí
pedem,
Ómnium hominum exópto ut fiam míserorum misérrumus.
Sen. Sánun es, qui istúc exoptes, aút neges te umquám
pedem
Ín eas aedis íntulisse ubi hábitas, insaníssume? 820
Men. Tún, senex, aís habitare méd in illisce aédibus?
Sen. Tú negas? **Men.** Nego hércle uero. **Sen.** Immo
hércle ridiculé negas;
Nísi quo nocte hac éxmigrasti. Cóncede huc sis, fília.
Quíd tu ais? num hinc éxmigrastis? **Mat.** Quem in
locum aút quam ob rem, óbsecro?
Sen. Nón edepol sció. **Mat.** Profecto lúdit te hic: non
tú tenes? 825
Iám uero, Menaéchme, satis iocátu's: nunc hanc rém gere.
Men. Quaéso, quid mihi técumst? unde aut quís tu
homo's? sanán tibi
Méns est aut adeo ísti, quae moléstast mihi quoquó modo?
Mat. Víden tu illic oculós liuere? Ut uíridis exoritúr
colos
Éx temporibus átque fronte: ut óculi scintillánt, uide. 830
Men. Heí mihi, insaníre me aiunt, últro quom ipsi in-
sániunt.

Old Man. Why, or for what reason of all reasons?

Men. Sos. That I never did harm to this woman who accuses me of having stolen this (*holding up the mantle*) from her, and who swears that I carried it off. If ever I have put foot within the house where she lives, I desire that of all miserable men I may be the most miserable.

Old Man. Are you sane to desire that, or do you deny that you ever put foot in that house where you live, you wildest of madmen?

Men. Sos. Do you, old man, say that I live in that house?

Old Man. Do you deny it?

Men. Sos. By heavens, I do in truth deny it.

Old Man. No, by heavens, you do in joke deny it, unless you have moved somewhere in the night. Daughter, this way, please ; what say you? Have you moved from here?

Wife. To what place, or for what reason, I pray you?

Old Man. In truth I don't know.

Wife. Surely he is mocking you ; don't you understand? Now, certainly, Menaechmus, you have joked enough ; consider the business in hand.

Men. Sos. I beg you, what business have I with you? (*To the* OLD MAN.) Whence come you, or who are you? Have you a sound mind, or has she indeed, who is troublesome to me in every way?

Wife. Do you see how livid his eyes are? See how the green color is mounting to his temples and forehead. How his eyes flash !

Men. Sos. Ah me ! they say I am crazy, when in reality they themselves are crazy. (*Aside.*) Since they say I am in-

Quíd mihi meliust quám ut, quando illi me ínsanire praédicant,
Égomet me adsimulem ínsanire, ut íllos a me apstérream?
Mat. Út pandiculans óscitatur. Quíd nunc faciam, mí pater?
Sen. Cóncede huc, mea gnáta, ab istoc quám potest longíssume. 835
Men. Eúoe Bacche: heu, Brómie, quo me in síluam uenatúm uocas?
Aúdio, sed nón abire póssum ab his regiónibus:
Íta illa me ab laeuá rabiosa fémina adseruát canis:
Póste autem illic hírcus caluos, quí saepe aetate ín sua
Pérdidit ciuem ínnocentem fálso testimónio. 840
Sen. Vaé capiti tuo. **Men.** Écce Apollo mi éx oraclo ímperat,
Út ego illic oculós exuram lámpadibus ardéntibus.
Mat. Périi, mi patér: minatur míhi oculos exúrere.
Sen. Fília, heus. **Mat.** Quid ést? quid agimus? **Sen.** Quíd, si ego huc seruós cito?
Íbo, adducam qui húnc hinc tollant ét domi deuínciant, 845
Príus quam turbarúm quid faciat ámplius. **Men.** Enim haéreo:
Ní occupo áliquod míhi consílium, hí domum me ad se aúferent.
Púgnis me uotás in huius óre quicquam párcere,
Ní iam ex meis oculís abscedat máxumam in malám crucem?

sane, what is better for me than to pretend that I am insane? So be it. I'll play the madman and scare the fools away. (*He yawns.*)

Wife. Do you see how he stretches himself and yawns? What shall I do now, Father?

Old Man. Come here, daughter, as far away from him as possible.

Men. Sos. (*Begins to rave.*) Euoi, Bacchus! heu Bromius! Whither dost thou call me into the forest to the chase? I hear, but I cannot get away from this place, so closely does that mad dog watch me on the left, and behind her is that bald-headed billy-goat, who has often in his life destroyed an innocent citizen by false testimony.

Old Man. (*Shaking his cane.*) Woe to your head !

Men. Sos. Lo ! Apollo bids me by his oracle to burn out her eyes with blazing firebrands.

Wife. I am lost, Father; he threatens to burn out my eyes.

Old Man. Ho, daughter !

Wife. What is it ? What are we to do?

Old Man. Suppose I call the servants. I'll go and get men to carry him away and to bind him at home, before he does more mischief.

Men. Sos. (*Aside.*) Indeed I'm stuck. Unless I devise some scheme for myself they will carry me off to their house. (*He begins to rave.*) Dost thou forbid that I spare my fists at all on her face, unless she immediately gets out of my sight,

Fáciam quod iubés, Apollo. **Sen.** Fúge domum quantúm potest, 850
Ne híc te obtundat. **Mat.** Fúgio. Amabo, ádserua istunc mí pater,
Né quo hinc abeat. Súmne ego mulier mísera, quae illaec aúdio?
Men. Haúd male illanc á me amoui. Núnc hunc impurís-sumum,
Bárbatum, tremulúm Tithonum, quí cluet Cucinó patre,
Íta mihi imperás, ut ego huius mémbra atque ossa atque ártua 855
Cómminuam illo scípione, quem ípse habet. **Sen.** Dabitúr malum,
Mé quidem si attígeris aut si própius ad me accésseris.
Men. Fáciam quod iubés: securim cápiam ancipitem atque húnc senem
Ósse fini dédolabo ássulatim uíscera.
Sen. Énim uero illud praécauendumst átque adcurandúm mihi. 860
Sáne ego illum metuo, út minatur, né quid male faxít mihi.
Men. Múlta mihi imperás, Apollo. Núnc equos iunctós iubes
Cápere me indomitós, ferocis, átque in currum inscéndere,
Vt ego hunc proterám leonem uétulum, olentem, edéntulum.
Iam ádstiti in currúm: iam lora téneo, iam stimulum ín manu. 865

to utter and awful destruction? I shall do as thou biddest, Apollo.

Old Man. Run home as soon as you can, lest he beat you.

Wife. I fly. I pray you, watch him, Father, lest he get away from here. Am I not a miserable woman, who hear these things? (*She goes into her house.*)

Men. Sos. I have rid myself of her skilfully. Now for this filthy, bearded, tottering Tithonus, so-called son of Cygnus. Thou dost command me to smash his limbs and bones and joints with the staff that he himself carries.

Old Man. (*Brandishing his cane.*) You'll get a beating, if you even touch me, or if you come nearer to me.

Men. Sos. (*Rushing to the other side of the stage.*) I shall do as thou dost order ; I shall take the double-edged axe and hew into bits the vitals of this old man clear to the bone.

Old Man. Indeed I must look out for that and take care of myself. I really am afraid he may do me some harm, as he threatens.

Men. Sos. Thou dost give me many commands, Apollo. Now thou dost order me to take yoked horses, unbroken, high-spirited, and to mount into the chariot that I may trample down this old, stinking, toothless lion. (*He pretends to be in a chariot.*) Now I stand in the chariot, (*stretches forward his left hand*) now I hold the reins, (*raises his right hand*) now the whip is in my hand. Go, horses, let us hear the

Ágite equi, facitóte sonitus úngularum appáreat:
Cúrsu celeri fácite inflexa sít pedum pernícitas.
Sen. Míhin equis iunctís minare? **Men.** Écce, Apollo, dénuo
Mé iubes facere ínpetum in eum, qui híc stat, atque occídere.
Séd quis hic est, qui mé capillo híne de curru déripit? 870
Ímperium tuóm demutat átque edictum Apóllinis.
Sen. Heu, hércle morbum acútum. Di, uostrám fidem:
Vel híc, qui insanit, quám ualuit pauló prius.
Ei dérepente tántus morbus íncidit.
Ibo átque arcessam médicum iam quantúm potest. 875
Men. Iamne ísti abierunt quaéso ex conspectú meo,
Qui uí me cogunt, út ualidus insániam?
Quid césso abire ad náuem, dum saluó licet?
Vosque ómnis quaeso, sí senex reuénerit, 880
Ne me índicetis, quá platea hinc aufúgerim.

sound of your hoofs, show your swiftness by rapid flight.

Old Man. Do you threaten me with yoked horses?

Men. Sos. Ho, Apollo ! again dost thou order me to make an attack on him who stands here, and to kill him. (*Puts his hand to the back of his head.*) But who is pulling me out of the chariot by the hair? He changes thy mandate, O Apollo ! (*He reels and falls.*)

Old Man. (*Approaching him cautiously.*) Alas, in truth a serious disorder ! Ye gods, by your faith, how quickly the strength of puny man perishes ! A little while ago, how vigorous was this man, who is now insane ! So serious a disorder has suddenly come upon him. I'll go and call a doctor now as soon as possible. (*Exit.*)

Men. Sos. (*Recovering.*) I pray, have they now gone out of my sight, who compel me by force to become insane, when I am well? Why do I hesitate to go to the ship while I may in safety, (*to the audience*) and I beg of you all, if the old man should come back, don't tell on me, by what street I have fled. (*Exit.*)

ACTVS V.

SCAENA I.

SENEX.

Lumbí sedendo, óculi spectandó dolent,
Manéndo medicum, dúm se ex opere récipiat.
Odiósus tandem uíx ab aegrotís uenit.
Ait se óbligasse crús fractum Aesculápio, 885
Apóllini autem brácchium. Nunc cógito,
Vtrúm me dicam dúcere medicum án fabrum.
Atque éccum incedit. Móue formicinúm gradum!

SCAENA II.

MEDICVS. SENEX.

Med. Quid illi ésse morbi díxeras? narrá, senex!
Num láruatus aút cerritust? fác sciam. 890
Num éum ueternus aút aqua intercús tenet?
Sen. Quin éa te causa dúco, ut id dicás mihi
Atque íllum ut sanum fácias. **Med.** Perfacile íd quidemst.
Sanúm futurum, méa ego id promittó fide.

ACT V.

SCENE I.

Enter the OLD MAN *from the Forum.*

Old Man. My limbs are aching from sitting, my eyes from watching, while waiting for the doctor to get away from his business. At last, with much ado, the contemptible fellow comes from his patients. He says he had to set a broken leg for Aesculapius or an arm for Apollo. Now I wonder whether I ought to say that I am bringing a doctor or a carpenter. (*Sees the* PHYSICIAN.) But, lo, he comes. Hurry that ant's pace !

SCENE II.

Enter PHYSICIAN.

Phy. What disease did you say he has? Tell me, old man, is he possessed of spirits or is he insane? Let me know. Has he paralysis or dropsy?

Old Man. Why, I summon you to tell me that and to make him well.

Phy. That indeed is very easy. He shall be well, I promise you that on my honor.

Sen. Magná cum cura ego íllum curarí uolo. 895
Med. Quin sóspitabo plús sescentos ín dies.
Ita illúm cum cura mágna curabó tibi.
Sen. Atque éccum ipsum hominem. **Med.** Ópseruemus, quám rem agat.

SCAENA III.

MENAECHMVS I. SENEX. MEDICVS.

Men. Édepol ne hic diés peruorsus átque aduorsus mi óptigit:
Quaé me clam ratús sum facere, ea ómnia hic fecít palam 900
Párasitus, qui mé conpleuit flágiti et formídinis,
Méus Vlixes, súo qui regi tántum conciuít mali:
Quém ego hóminem, sí quidem uiuo, uíta euoluám sua.
Séd ego stultus súm, qui illius ésse dico, quaé meast:
Méo cibo et sumptu éducatust: ánima priuabó uirum. 905
Cóndigne autem haec méretrix fecit, út mos est meretrícius:
Quía rogo pallam, út referatur rúrsum ad uxorém meam,
Míhi se ait dedísse. Heu, edepol né ego hómo uiuó miser.
Sen. Aúdin quae loquitúr? **Med.** Se miserum praédicat. **Sen.** Adeás uelim.
Med. Sáluos sis, Menaéchme. quaeso, cúr apertas brácchium? 910
Nón tu scis, quantum ísti morbo núnc tuo faciás mali?
Men. Quín tu te suspéndis? **Sen.** Ecquid séntis? **Med.** Quid ni séntiam?

Old Man. I wish him attended with great care.

Phy. Yes, indeed, I'll make him a sound man for ever so long, with such care I shall attend him for you.

Old Man. But look ! there is the man himself.

Phy. Let us watch what he does.

SCENE III.

Enter MENAECHMUS I. *of* EPIDAMNUS.

Men. (*Soliloquizes.*) By Pollux, surely this has been a perverse and adverse day for me ! What I thought I was doing in secret, the parasite has made public here. He has overwhelmed me with disgrace and dismay, my Ulysses, who has caused his king so much trouble. As sure as I live, I'll spin out the thread of the fellow's life. But I am a fool to speak of that life as his, when it is my own. He is fed on my food and at my expense ; I'll deprive the man of existence. This courtesan, too, acts as befits courtesans and as their custom is. Because I ask for the mantle in order to return it to my wife, she says that she has given it to me. Ah, woe is me ! truly I am a miserable man.

Old Man. (*Apart.*) Do you hear what he says?

Phy. (*Apart.*) He declares he is miserable.

Old Man. (*Apart.*) I wish you would go to him.

Phy. (*Approaching* MENAECHMUS.) Good morning, Menaechmus. Pray why do you expose your arm ; don't you know how much harm you do that disorder of yours?

Men. Won't you go and be hanged?

Old Man. (*To* PHYSICIAN.) What, pray, do you think?

Phy. What else should I think? This case cannot be

Nón potest haec rés ellébori únguine optinérier.
Séd quid ais, Menaéchme? **Men.** Quid uis? **Med.** Díc mihi hoc quod té rogo:
Álbum an atrum uínum potas? **Men.** Quíd tibi quaesitóst opus? 915
Med. . . . . **Men.** Quín tu is in malám crucem?
Sen. Iam hércle occeptat ínsanire prímulum. **Men.** Quin tú rogas,
Púrpureum panem án puniceum sóleam ego esse an lúteum?
Sóleamne esse auís squamosas, píscis pennatós? **Sen.** Papae,
Aúdin tu, ut delíramenta lóquitur? Quid cessás dare 920
Pótionis áliquid, prius quam pércipit insánia?
Med. Máne modo: etiam pércontabor ália. **Sen.** Occidis fábulans.
Med. Díc mihi hoc: solént tibi umquam óculi duri fíeri?
Men. Quíd? tu me lucústam censes ésse, homo ignauíssume?
Med. Díc mihi, en umquam íntestina tíbi crepant, quod séntias? 925
Men. Ýbi satur sum, núlla crepitant: quándo esurio, túm crepant.
Med. Hóc quidem edepol haú pro insano uérbum respondít mihi.
Pérdormiscin tu úsque ad lucem? fácilin tu obdormís cubans?

reached by ointment of hellebore. But what say you, Menaechmus?

Men. What do you want?

Phy. Tell me what I ask : do you drink white wine or dark?

Men. Why do you ask that?

Phy. It is of great importance what the color is.

Men. Why don't you go to perdition?

Old Man. Now in truth he begins to rave.

Men. Why don't you ask whether I usually eat purple or scarlet or yellow bread ; whether I eat birds with scales or fishes with feathers?

Old Man. Oh my ! do you hear how wildly he talks? Why do you hesitate to give him some potion before madness comes upon him?

Phy. Just wait, I'll question him a bit about other matters.

Old Man. You kill me with your talking.

Phy. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Tell me this : do your eyes ever get hard?

Men. What, do you take me for a locust, you good-for-nothing?

Phy. In this at least he surely does not answer me like an insane man. Do you sleep soundly until daylight; do you easily go to sleep when you lie down?

Men. Pérdormisco sí resolui árgentum, quoi débeo. 930
Quí te Iuppitér dique omnes, pércontator, pérduint.
Med. Núnc homo insaníre occeptat. Dé illis uerbis cáue tibi.
Sen. Ímmo melior núnc quidemst de uérbis, prae ut dudúm fuit: 935
Nám dudum uxorém suam esse aiébat rabiosám canem.
Men. Quíd ego dixi? **Sen.** Insánisti, inquam. **Men.** Égone? **Sen.** Tu istic, quí mihi
Étiam me iunctís quadrigis mínitatu's prostérnere.
Égomet haec te uídi facere: égomet haec ted árguo. 940
Men. Át ego te sacrám coronam súrrupuisse Iouí scio:
Ét ob eam rem in cárcerem ted ésse compactúm scio:
Ét postquam es emíssus, caesum uírgis sub furcá scio:
Túm patrem occidísse et matrem uéndidisse etiám scio.
Sátin haec pro sanó male dicta mále dictis respóndeo? 945
Sen. Óbsecro hercle, médice, propere, quídquid facturú's, face.
Nón uides hominem ínsanire? **Med.** Scín quid facias óptumumst?
Ád me face uti déferatur. **Sen.** Ítane censes? **Med.** Quíppini?
Íbi meo arbitrátu potero cúrare hominem. **Sen.** Age, út lubet.

Men. I go to sleep, if I have paid my debts. May Jupiter and all the gods destroy you, Inquisitive !

Phy. Now the man begins to rave. (*To the* OLD MAN.) Look out for yourself after that speech.

Old Man. Indeed he is better now, at least in his talk, in comparison with what he was a while ago ; for just now he said his wife was a mad dog.

Men. What did I say?

Old Man. You were insane, I say.

Men. I?

Old Man. You there, who even threatened to run over me with a team of horses. I myself was a witness to this, I myself accuse you of it.

Men. But I know that you stole the sacred crown of Jupiter, and for that I know you were shut up in prison ; then I know you killed your father, and even sold your mother. Do I return maledictions for maledictions as a sane man?

Old Man. In faith, Doctor, I pray you, hasten. Do what you are going to do. Don't you see the man is raving?

Phy. Do you know what is best for you to do? See that he is brought to my house.

Old Man. Do you think so ?

Phy. Certainly, there I can attend the man as I choose.

Old Man. Well, as you please.

Med. Hélleborum potábis faxo áliquos uigintí dies. 950
Men. Át ego te pendéntem fodiam stímulis trigintá dies.
Med. Í, arcesse homines, quí illunc ad me déferant.
Sen. Quot súnt satis?
Med. Proínde ut insaníre uideo, quáttuor, nihiló minus.
Sen. Iám hic erunt. Adsérua tu istunc, médice. **Med.** Immo ego abibó domum,
Vt parentur, quíbus paratis ópus est. Tu seruós iube. 955
Húnc ad me feránt. **Sen.** Iam ego illic fáxo erit.
Med. Abeó. **Sen.** Vale.
Men. Ábiit socerus, ábiit medicus: sólus sum. Pro Iúppiter,
Quíd illuc est, quod núnc me hisce homines ínsanire praédicant?
Nám equidém, postquam gnátus sum, numquam aégrotaui unúm diem.
Néque ego insanió neque pugnas égo nec litis coépio. 960
Sáluos saluos álios uideo: nóui homines, ádloquor.
Án illi, perperam ínsanire quí aiunt me, ipsi insániunt?
Quíd ego nunc faciám? Domum ire cúpio: at uxor nón sinit;
Húc autem nemo íntro mittit. Nímis prouentumst néquiter.
Híc ero usque: ad nóctem sáltem, crédo, intro mittár domum. 965

Phy. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) I'll see that you drink hellebore for some twenty days.

Men. But I'll hang you up and sting you with lashes for thirty days.

Phy. (*Apart.*) Go, summon men to carry him to my house.

Old Man. (*Apart.*) How many will you need?

Phy. Inasmuch as I see he is raving, four, no less.

Old Man. They shall be here soon. You watch him, Doctor.

Phy. No, I shall go home to make ready what should be provided. Order the slaves to bring him to my house.

Old Man. I'll see that he is there immediately.

Phy. I am going. (*Exit.*)

Old Man. Farewell. (*Exit.*)

Men. (*Soliloquizes.*) My father-in-law is gone, the doctor is gone, I am alone. Oh, Jupiter ! why is it that these men declare that I am insane? for indeed I have never been sick a single day since I was born, nor am I insane, nor do I begin fights and quarrels. Healthy myself, I see others in health, I recognize men, speak to them. Are not they who maliciously say that I am insane, insane themselves? What shall I now do? I want to go home, but my wife doesn't allow it ; moreover, no one lets me in here. I've had abominable luck. I'll stay here right along ; toward night indeed, I think, I shall be let into the house. (*Stands near his door.*)

SCAENA IV.

MESSENIO. (MENAECHMVS I.)

Spectámén bonó séruo id ést, quí rem erílém,
Procúrát, uidét, cóllocát, cógitátqué,
Vt ábsénte eró rém erí díligéntér
Tutétúr, quam si ípse ádsit, aút réctiús.
Tergúm quám gulám, crúra quám uéntrem opórtét 970
Potióra ésse, quoí cór modésté sitúmst.
Recórdétur íd,
Qui níhili súnt, quid ís pretí
Detúr ab súis erís,
Ignáuis, ímprobís uirís.
Vérbéra, cómpedés,
Molaé, lássitúdó, famés, frígus dúrúm:
Haec prétia sunt ignáuiae. Id ego malum male métuo.
Proptérea bonum esse cértumst potius quám malum.
Magis múlto patior fácilius ego uerba, uérbera ódi: 980
Nimióque edo lubéntius molitúm quam molitum praehíbeo.
Proptérea eri imperium éxsequor, bene ét sedate séruo id:
Eóque exemplo séruio, tergo ín rem ut arbitro ésse.
Atque íd mihi prodest. Álii, ut esse in súam rem ducunt, íta sint:
Ego íta ero, ut me esse opórtet. Id si adhíbeam, culpam abstíneam, 985
Eró meo ut omnibus ín locis sim praésto, metuam haud múltum.

SCENE IV.

Enter MESSENIO, *coming from the tavern.*

Mes. (*Soliloquizes.*) This is the criterion of a good slave, — that he takes care of his master's business, looks after it, regulates it, makes a study of it, so that in the absence of his lord he as carefully guards the property as he would if the master himself were present, or more carefully. He whose heart is rightly placed ought to consider his back of more importance than his gullet, his legs than his stomach. Let those that are of no account consider what reward is given by masters to worthless, disreputable men. Blows, fetters, the mill, fatigue, hunger, intense cold, — these are the rewards of worthlessness. I fear this punishment exceedingly.

I very easily endure words, I despise blows, I much more willingly eat ground meal than grind the meal. Wherefore, I obey the command of my master, properly and quietly observe it. I as a slave conduct myself as I think is to the advantage of my back, and that is to my interest. Let others do as they think is to their interest ; I shall do as I ought. If I maintain this principle, I shall avoid censure. As long as I am ready for my master on all occasions, I shall not be much

Propést, quando haec mea méus erus ob fácta pretium exsóluet.
Postquam ín tabernam uása et seruos cónlocaui, ut iússerat,
Ita uénio aduorsum. Núnc foris pultábo, adesse ut mé sciat,
Átque eum ex hoc sáltu damni sáluom ut educám foras. 990
Séd metuo ne séro ueniam dépugnato proélio.

SCAENA V.

Senex. Menaechmvs I. Lorarii. Messenio.

Sen. Pér ego uobis déos atque homines díco, ut imperiúm meum
Sápienter habeátis curae, quaé imperaui atque ímpero.
Fácite illic homo iam ín medicinam ablátus sublimén siet
Nísi quidem uos uóstra crura aut látera nihili pénditis. 995
Cáue quisquam, quod illíc minitetur, uóstrum flocci fécerit.
Quid státis? quid dubitátis? Iam sublímen raptum opórtuit.
Ego íbo ad medicum: praésto ero illi, quóm uenietis. **Men.** Óccidi.
Quid hoc ést negoti? quíd illisce homines ád me currunt, ópsecro?
Quid uóltis uos? quid quaéritatis? quíd me circumsístitis? 1000
Quo rápitis me? quo fértis me? Perii. Ópsecro uostrám fidem,

afraid. The time is near when my master will reward me for this conduct. After placing the baggage and servants in the tavern, as he directed, I am coming thus to meet him. Now I'll knock at the door that he may know that I am here and that I may lead him in safety out of this mountain pass of peril. (*Knocks at* EROTIUM'S *door.*) But I am afraid that I come too late after the battle is fought (*he steps inside*).

SCENE V.

Enter the OLD MAN *and four slaves.*

Old Man. By gods and men, I command you, observe carefully the directions that I have given and now give. (*Pointing to* MENAECHMUS.) Pick up that man and carry him to the doctor's house at once, unless indeed you consider your legs and sides of no value. Let no one of you care a straw for what he threatens. Why do you stand; why do you hesitate? He ought already to have been picked up and carried off. (*The slaves start toward* MENAECHMUS.) I'll go to the doctor's, I shall be ready there when you come. (*Exit. The slaves close on* MENAECHMUS.)

Men. I am undone! What does this mean; why do those men rush at me, I implore; what do you want; what are you seeking; why do you surround me? (*They seize him.*) Whither are you dragging me; whither are you carrying me? I am lost! I implore your protection,

Epidámnienses súbuenite cíues. Quin me míttitis?

Mes. Pro dí immortales, óbsecro, quid ego óculis aspició meis?

Erúm meum indigníssume nesció qui sublimén ferunt.

Men. Ecquís suppetias mi aúdet ferre? **Mes.** Ego, ere, aúdeo audacíssume. 1005

O fácinus indignum ét malum,
Epidámnii ciués, erum
Meum híc in pacato óppido
Lucí derupier ín uia,
Qui líber ad uos uénerit.

Míttite istunc. **Men.** Óbsecro te, quísqui's, operam mi út duis,

Neú sinas in me ínsignite fíeri tantam iniúriam. 1010

Mes. Ímmo operam dabo ét defendam et súbuenibo sédulo.

Númquam te patiár perire: mé perirest aéquius.

Éripe oculum istíc, ab umero quí tenet te, ere, óbsecro.

Hísce ego iam seméntem in ore fáciam pugnosque óbseram.

Máxumo hercle hodié malo uostro ístunc fertis. Míttite. 1015

Men. Téneo ego huic oculúm. **Mes.** Face ut oculi lócus in capite appáreat.

Vós scelestos, uós rapacis, uós praedones. **Lor.** Périimus.

Óbsecro hercle. **Mes.** Míttite ergo. **Men.** Quíd me uobis táctiost?

Pécte pugnis. **Mes.** Ágite abite: fúgite hinc in malám crucem.

Ém tibi etiam: quía postremus cédis, hoc praemí feres. 1020

come to my assistance, citizens of Epidamnus. (*To the slaves.*) Why don't you let me go?

Mes. (*Coming out of* EROTIUM'S *house.*) O ye immortal gods! I pray you, what do my eyes behold? Some unknown fellows are most wickedly carrying off my master on their shoulders.

Men. Does any one dare bring me aid?

Mes. (*Starts for help.*) I, master, dare most boldly. Oh! disgraceful and wicked deed, citizens of Epidamnus, that my master, here in a peaceful city, in broad daylight, should be carried off on the street, who came to you a free man. (*Shouts to the slaves.*) Let him go!

Men. I implore you, whoever you are, give me aid. Do not permit such an outrage to be wickedly inflicted on me.

Mes. (*Starts to the rescue.*) Yes, I will give you aid, and defend you, and vigorously assist you. Never will I allow you to perish; 'tis better that I perish. Tear out the eye of that fellow, I beg of you, master, who holds you by the shoulder. I'll make a sowing on the faces of these fellows and plant my fists. By Hercules, you are carrying this man off to your own very great misfortune. Let him go! (*Strikes them.*)

Men. (*Struggling.*) I have this fellow's eye.

Mes. Make his eye-socket show in his head. You villains! you robbers! you pirates! (*Strikes again and again.*)

Slaves. We are undone! Mercy!

Mes. Let him go, then.

Men. (*To slaves.*) Why do you touch me? (*To* MESSENIO.) Pummel them with your fists.

Mes. Get out! away with you! Go to perdition! (*Three run away.*) Here's for you too. (*He attacks the last one.*) Because you are the last to yield, you shall have this reward. (*The last slave flees, and* MESSENIO *returns to* MENAECHMUS.)

Nímis bene ora cómmetaui atque éx mea senténtia.
Édepol, ere, ne tíbi suppetias témperi aduení modo.

Men. Át tibi di sempér, adulescens, quísquis es, faciánt bene:
Nam ábsque te esset, hódie numquam ad sólem occasum uíuerem.

Mes. Érgo edepol, si récte facias, ére, med emittás manu. 1025

Men. Líberem ego te? **Mes.** Vérum, quando equidem, ére, te seruauí. **Men.** Quid est?
Ádulescens, errás. **Mes.** Quid erro? **Men.** Pér Iouem adiuró patrem,
Méd erum tuóm non esse. **Mes.** Nón taces? **Men.** Non méntior:
Néc meus seruos úmquam tale fécit quale tú mihi.

Mes. Síne igitur, si túom negas me ésse, abire líberum. 1030

Men. Méa quidem hercle caúsa liber ésto atque ito quó uoles.

Mes. Némpe iubes? **Men.** Iubeo hércle, si quid ímperist in té mihi.

Mes. Sálue, mi patróne. Quom tu líberas me sério,
Gaúdeo. **Men.** Credo hércle uero. **Mes.** Séd, patrone, te óbsecro,
Né minus nunc ímperes mihi, quám quom tuos seruós fui. 1035

Ápud ted habitabo ét, quando ibis, úna tecum ibó domum.
Máne me: nunc ibo ín tabernam, uása atque argentúm tibi

I have measured off their faces well and to my liking. By Pollux, master, surely I brought you aid just in time.

Men. And may the gods always prosper you, young man, whoever you are ; for if it had not been for you, I never should have lived until sunset.

Mes. Then in truth, master, if you would do right, you should free me.

Men. Should I free you?

Mes. Certainly, since I indeed have saved you, master.

Men. What does this mean? Young man, you are making a mistake.

Mes. In what am I wrong?

Men. By father Jupiter, I swear that I am not your master.

Mes. Won't you be quiet?

Men. I am not lying. No slave of mine has ever done for me what you have.

Mes. Allow me then, if you deny that I am yours, to go free.

Men. In sooth, so far as I indeed am concerned, be free, and go where you choose.

Mes. Do you really command it?

Men. Assuredly, I do command it, if I have any power over you.

Mes. Hail, patron ! since you really do free me, I rejoice.

Men. In truth, I certainly believe it.

Mes. But, patron, I beg you, command me no less now than when I was your slave. I'll live with you, and when you go home I'll go with you. Wait for me. I'll now go to the tavern and bring back to you the baggage and silver. The

Réferam. Rectest óbsignátum ín uiduló marsúppium
Cúm uiatico: íd tibi iam huc ádferam. **Men.** Adfer strénue.
Mes. Sáluom tibi item, ut míhi dedisti, réddibo: tu hic mé mane. 1040
Men. Nímia mira míhi quidem hodie exórta sunt mirís modis.
Vél ille seruom sé meum esse aibat, quem égo modo emisí manu.
Ís ait se mihi állaturum cum árgento marsúppium.
Íd si attulerit, dícam ut a me ábeat liber quó uolet,
Né tum, quando sánus factus sít, a me argentúm petat. 1045
Sócer et medicus me ínsanire aiébant. Quid sit, míra sunt.
Haéc nihilo esse míhi uidentur sétius quam sómnia.
Núnc ibo intro ad hánc meretricem, quámquam suscensét mihi,
Sí possum exoráre, ut pallam réddat, quam referám domum

SCAENA VI.

Menaechmvs II. Messenio.

Men. Mén hodie usquam cónuenisse te, aúdax, audes dícere, 1050
Póstquam aduorsum mi ímperaui ut húc uenires? **Mes.** Quín modo
Éripui, homines quóm ferebant té sublimen quáttuor,

purse with the money for travelling is well sealed up in the bag. I'll bring it here to you at once.

Men. Bring it quickly.

Mes. I'll return it safely to you just as you gave it to me. You await me here. (*Exit toward the harbor.*)

Men. (*Soliloquizes.*) Very strange things have happened to me in strange ways. That fellow whom I just now freed said he was a slave of mine. He says he will bring me a purse with money. If he will do that, I shall say that he may be free to go where he wishes, lest as soon as he becomes sane he may demand the money of me. My father-in-law and the doctor said I was insane. Whatever it means, these things are wonderful. They seem to me to be nothing else than dreams. Now I'll go inside to this courtesan, although she is angry at me, to see if I can persuade her to return the mantle, that I may take it home. (*He goes into* EROTIUM'S *house.*)

SCENE VI.

Enter MENAECHMUS SOSICLES, *and* MESSENIO, *from the tavern.*

Men. Sos. Do you dare say, brazen, that I have met you anywhere to-day since I ordered you to come here to meet me?

Mes. Why, I just now rescued you, when four men were carrying you off on their shoulders, before this house. You

Ápud hasce aedis. Tú clamabas déum fidem atque hominum ómnium,
Quóm ego accurro téque eripio uí pugnando, ingrátiis.
Ób eam rem, quia té seruaui, me ámisisti líberum. 1055
Quom árgentum dixí me petere et uása, tu quantúm potest
Praécucurristi óbuiam, ut quae fécisti, infitiás eas.
Men. Líberum ego te iússi abire? **Mes.** Cérto. **Men.** Quin certíssumumst,
Mépte potius fíeri seruom, quám te umquam emittám manu.

SCAENA VII.

MENAECHMVS I. MESSENIO. MENAECHMVS II.

Men. I. Sí uel per oculós iuratis, níhilo hercle ea causá magis 1060
Fácietis ut ego hódie abstulerim pállam et spinter, péssumae.
Mes. Dí immortales, quíd ego uideo? **Men. II.** Quíd uides? **Mes.** Speculúm tuom.
Men. II. Quíd negotist? **Mes.** Túast imago: tám consimilist quám potest.
Men. II. Pól profecto haud ést dissimilis, méam quom formam nóscito.
Men. I. Ó adulescens, sálue qui me séruauisti, quísquis es. 1065
Mes. Ádulescens, quaeso hércle, eloquere túom mihi nomen, nísi piget.

were imploring the protection of gods and men, when I ran to you and rescued you by vigorous fighting, in spite of them. Because I saved you, you set me free. When I said that I would go get the money and baggage, you as quickly as possible ran around to intercept me, that you might deny what you had done.

Men. Sos. Did I bid you go free?

Mes. Certainly.

Men. Sos. Why, most assuredly it is more likely that I myself should become a slave than that I should free you.

SCENE VII.

Enter MENAECHMUS *of Epidamnus from* EROTIUM'S *house.*

Men. (*To* EROTIUM, *in the house.*) Even if you should swear by your eyes, not the more, in sooth, by that will you prove that I stole the mantle and bracelet of you, vile creatures.

Mes. Ye immortal gods ! what do I see?

Men. Sos. What do you see?

Mes. Your likeness.

Men. Sos. What do you mean?

Mes. Your image ; he is as like you as can be.

Men. Sos. (*Looking at* MENAECHMUS.) In truth, he is not unlike, so far as I know my own looks.

Men. (*To* MESSENIO.) Oh, young man, greeting to you who saved me, whoever you are.

Mes. Young man, tell me your name, if you don't object?

Men. I. Nón edepol ita prómeruisti dé me, ut pigeat quaé uelis

Éloqui. Mihíst Menaechmo nómen. **Men. II.** Immo edepól mihi.

Men. I. Sículus sum Syrácusanus. **Men. II.** Éadem urbs et patriást mihi.

Men. I. Quíd ego ex te audio? **Men. II.** Hóc quod res est. **Mes.** Nóui equidem hunc: erus ést meus. 1070

Égo quidem huius séruos sum, sed méd esse huius crédidi.

Húnc censebam té esse: huic etiam éxhibui negótium.

Quaéso ignoscas, sí quid stulte díxi atque imprudéns tibi.

Men. II. Délirare míhi uidere. Nón commeministí simul

Te hódie mecum exíre ex naui? **Mes.** Énim uero aequom póstulas. 1075

Tú erus es: tu séruom quaere. Tú salueto: tú uale.

Húnc ego esse aió Menaechmum. **Men. I.** Át ego me.

Men. II. Quae haec fábulast?

Tú's Menaechmus? **Men. I.** Mé esse dico, Móscho prognatúm patre.

Men. II. Tún meo patré's prognatus? **Men. I.** Ímmo equidem, adulescéns, meo.

Túom tibi neque óccupare néque praeripere póstulo. 1080

Mes. Dí immortales, spém insperatam dáte mihi, quam súspicor.

Nám nisi me animus fállit, hi sunt gémini germaní duo:

Nam ét patriam et patrém commemorant páriter qui fuerínt sibi.

Men. Assuredly you have deserved so well of me that I do not object to telling what you wish. My name is Menaechmus. **Men. Sos.** By Pollux, that's mine too.

Men. I am a Sicilian, of Syracuse.

Men. Sos. I am of the same city and country.

Men. What do I hear from you?

Men. Sos. That which is a fact.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES, *pointing to* MENAECHMUS.) I indeed know this man. He is my master. I in truth am this man's slave, but (*pointing to* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES) I thought I was this man's. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) I thought he was you ; I have even caused him some trouble. (*To* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES.) I beg your pardon if I have said anything foolish or ill-advised to you.

Men. Sos. It strikes me you are crazy. Don't you remember that you disembarked from the ship with me to-day?

Mes. Certainly your question is to the point, you are my master. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) You find a slave. (*To* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES.) Greeting to you, (*to* MENAECHMUS) to you farewell. I say that he [MENAECHMUS SOSICLES] is Menaechmus. **Men.** But I say that I am.

Men. Sos. What is this yarn? Are you Menaechmus?

Men. I say that I am, son of my father Moschus.

Men. Sos. Are you the son of my father?

Men. Yes indeed, young man, of my father. I don't wish to seize your father and carry him off.

Mes. (*Aside.*) Ye immortal gods! grant me the unhoped for hope that I entertain ; for unless my soul deceives me, these are the twin brothers, for they speak of a country and a father that each alike had.

Séuocabo erúm. Menaechme. **Men. ambo.** Quíd uis? **Mes.** Non ambós uolo.

Séd erum: uter uostrúmst aduectus mécum naui? **Men. I.** Nón ego. 1085

Men. II. Át ego. **Mes.** Te uolo ígitur, huc concéde. **Men. II.** Concessí. Quid est?

Mes. Íllic homo hercle aut sýcophanta aut géminus est fratér tuos.

Nám hominem hominis símiliorem númquam uidi ego álterum,

Néque aqua aquae neque láctest lactis, míhi crede, usquam símilius,

Quám hic tuíst tuque húius autem; póste eandem patriam ác patrem 1090

Mémorat. Meliust nós adire átque hunc percontárier.

Men. II. Hércle qui tu me ádmonuisti récte et habeo grátiam.

Pérge operam dare, ópsecro hercle. Líber esto, si ínuenis

Húnc meum fratrem ésse. **Mes.** Spero. **Men. II.** Et égo quidem speró fore.

Mes. Quíd ais tu? Menaéchmum opinor té uocari díxeras. 1095

Men. I. Íta uero. **Mes.** Huic itém Menaechmo nómen est. In Sícilia

Té Syracusís natum esse díxisti: hic natúst ibi.

Móschum tibi patrém fuisse díxisti: huic itidém fuit.

Núnc operam potéstis ambo míhi dare et uobís simul.

Men. I. Prómeruisti ut né quid ores, quód uelis quin ímpetres. 1100

I'll call my master aside. Menaechmus !

Both Menaechmi. What do you want?

Mes. I don't want both of you, but my master. Which one of you came here with me on the ship?

Men. Not I.

Men. Sos. But I.

Mes. I want you then, step aside here.

Men. Sos. I have stepped aside. What is it?

Mes. That man surely is either an impostor or he is your twin brother ; for never have I seen one man more like another. Water was never more like water, nor milk like milk, believe me, than is this man like you, and you, too, like him ; moreover, he speaks of the same native land and the same father. It is best that we go and interview him.

Men. Sos. In faith, you advise me rightly, and I thank you. I implore you, by Hercules, continue your investigation. You shall be free if you find that he is my brother.

Mes. I hope so.

Men. Sos. And I indeed hope it will be so.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) What say you? I think you said you were called Menaechmus.

Men. Yes, to be sure.

Mes. This man's name is also Menaechmus. At Syracuse in Sicily you said you were born ; this man was also born there. You said you had a father named Moschus, so had he. Now you can both assist me and also yourselves.

Men. You have deserved so well of me that you can ask nothing that you desire and not obtain it.

Tám quasi me emerís argento, líber seruibó tibi.

Mes. Spés mihist, uos ínuenturum frátres germanós duos

Géminos, una mátre natos ét patre uno unó die.

Men. I. Míra memoras. Ítinam efficere, quód pollicitu's, póssies.

Mes. Póssum. Sed nunc ágite, uterque id, quód rogabo, dícite. 1105

Men. I. Ívbi lubet, roga: réspondebo, níl reticebo quód sciam.

Mes. Ést tibi nomén Menaechmo? **Men. I.** Fáteor. **Mes.** Est itidém tibi?

Men. II. Ést. **Mes.** Patrem fuísse Moschum tíbi ais? **Men. I.** Ita uero. **Men. II.** Ét mihi.

Mes. Ésne tu Syrácusanus? **Men. I.** Cérto. **Mes.** Quid tu? **Men. II.** Quíppini?

Mes. Óptume usque adhúc conueniunt sígna. Porro operám date. 1110

Quíd longissumé meministi, díc mihi, in patriá tua?

Men. I. Cúm patre ut abií Tarentum ád mercatum, póstea

Ínter homines mé deerrare á patre atque inde áuehi.

Men. II. Iúppiter supréme, serua mé. **Mes.** Quid clamas? quín taces?

Quót eras annos gnátus tum quom té pater a patria áuehit? 1115

Men. I. Séptuennis: nám tum dentes míhi cadebant prímulum,

I, though free, shall serve you as freely as if you had bought me with money.

Mes. I hope I shall find you are own twin brothers, born of the same father and same mother, on the same day.

Men. You speak of wonderful things. May you be able to accomplish what you have promised!

Mes. I can do it. But, come now, both of you, tell me what I ask.

Men. When you please, speak. I shall answer and conceal nothing so far as I know.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Is your name Menaechmus?

Men. I acknowledge it.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES.) Is it yours too?

Men. Sos. It is.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Do you say your father was Moschus?

Men. Yes, truly.

Men. Sos. Mine too.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Are you a Syracusan?

Men. Undoubtedly.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES.) What do you say?

Men. Sos. The same, of course.

Mes. Thus far the marks agree perfectly. Give me your attention further. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) What do you remember the farthest in the past in your native country?

Men. How I went with my father on a trading expedition to Tarentum; afterwards that I wandered away from my father among the people and was carried away from there.

Men. Sos. Supreme Jupiter, save me!

Mes. Why do you cry out? Why don't you keep quiet? (*To* MENAECHMUS.) How old were you when your father took you away from your native land?

Men. Seven years old, for then I was losing my first teeth;

Néque patrem postíllac umquam uídi. **Mes.** Quid? uos túm patri
Fílii quot erátis? **Men. I.** Vt nunc máxume meminí, duo.
Mes. Ýter eratis, tún an ille, máior? **Men. I.** Aeque ambó pares.
Mes. Quí id potest? **Men. I.** Gemini ámbo eramus. **Men. II.** Dí me seruatúm uolunt. 1120
Mes. Sí interpellas, égo tacebo. **Men. II.** Pótius taceo. **Mes.** Díc mihi:
Ýnc nomine ámbo eratis? **Men. I.** Mínume: nam mihi hóc erat,
Quód nunc est, Menaéchmo, illum autem túm uocabant Sósiclem.
Men. I. Sígna adgnoui: cóntineri quín complectar nón queo.
Mí germane gémine frater, sálueto: ego sum Sósicles. 1125
Men. I. Quó modo igitur póst Menaechmo nómen est factúm tibi?
Men. II. Póstquam ad nos renúntiatumst úbi nauis rediít retro,
Púerum surruptúm Tarenti te ét patrem esse mórtuom,
Áuos noster mutáuit: quod tibi nómen est, fecít mihi.
Men. I. Crédo ita esse fáctum ut dicis. Séd mi hoc respondé. **Men. II.** Roga. 1130
Men I. Quíd erat nomen nóstrae matri? **Men. II.** Teúximarchae. **Men. I.** Cónuenit.
Ó salue, insperáte, multis ánnis post quem cónspicor,
Fráter. **Men. II.** Et tu, quém ego multis míseriis, labóribus

and I have never seen my father since.

Mes. Well, how many sons had your father then?

Men. As near as I can now remember, two.

Mes. Which was the elder, you or your brother?

Men. We were both the same age.

Mes. How is that possible?

Men. We two were twins.

Men. Sos. The gods wish to aid me !

Mes. If you interrupt me, I shall say nothing.

Men. Sos. It is better that I say nothing.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Tell me, did you both have the same name?

Men. Oh ! no, for mine was Menaechmus the same that I now have, but at that time they called him Sosicles.

Men. Sos. I accept the proof. I cannot refrain from embracing him (*rushes toward* MENAECHMUS). My own twin brother, greeting ! I am Sosicles.

Men. How then was the name Menaechmus given to you?

Men. Sos. When it was reported to us after the ship came back, that you had been stolen at Tarentum, and that Father had died, Grandfather changed my name, giving me yours instead.

Men. I believe what you say, but answer me this.

Men. Sos. Ask it.

Men. What was our mother's name?

Men. Sos. Teuximarcha.

Men. That settles it. All hail to you, unhoped-for brother, whom I see after many years (*they embrace*)!

Men. Sos. And to you, for whom I have so long been seeking through many troubles and hardships, and whom

Ísque adhuc quaesíui quemque ego ésse inuentum gaúdeo.

Mes. Hóc erát, quod haéc te meretrix húius uocabat nómine: 1135

Húnc censebat té esse, credo, quóm uocat te ad prándium.

Men. I. Námque edepol mi hic hódie iussi prándium adparárier

Clám meam úxorém: quoi pállam súrrupui dudúm domo,

Éam dedi huic. **Men. II.** Hanc dícis, frater, pállam, quam ego habeo ín manu?

Men. I. Quó modo haec ad té peruenit? **Men. II.** Méretrix, quae huc ad prándium 1140

Me ábduxit, me síbi dedisse aiébat. Prandi pérbene,

Pótaui atque accúbui scortum: pállam et aurum hoc míhi dedit.

Men. I. Gaúdeo edepol, sí quid propter mé tibi euenít boni:

Nám illa quom to ad sé uocabat, mé esse credo crédidit. 1145

Mes. Númquid me moráre, quin ego líber, ut iustí, siem?

Men. I. Óptumum atque aequíssumum orat, fráter: fac causá mea.

Men. II. Líber esto. **Men. I.** Quóm tu's liber, gaúdeo, Messénio.

Mes. Séd meliorest ópus auspicio, ut líber perpetuó siem.

Men. II. Quóniam haec euenérunt nobis, fráter, ex senténtia,

I rejoice to have found !

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS SOSICLES.) This was the reason why the courtesan called you by his name. She thought you were he, I suppose, when she invited you to dinner.

Men. To be sure ; for in truth, I ordered a dinner to be prepared here to-day without the knowledge of my wife. The mantle that I just stole from her at home I gave to this woman.

Men. Sos. Do you say, brother, that it is this mantle that I have in my hand?

Men. How did you get that?

Men. Sos. The woman that took me with her to dine here said that I had given it to her. I have dined well, I have drunk, I have banqueted with a woman. She gave me this mantle and bracelet.

Men. Indeed I rejoice if any good fortune has come to you through me ; for when she invited you to her house she believed, I suppose, that you were I.

Mes. Have you any objections to my becoming free, as you ordered?

Men. He asks what is perfectly right and just, brother. Do it for my sake.

Men. Sos. (*Touching* MESSENIO'S *shoulder.*) Be free.

Men. I rejoice that you are free, Messenio.

Mes. But there was need of more efficient power than yours to make me free forever.

Men. Sos. Since these things have turned out as we desire,

Ín patriam redeámus ambo. **Men. I.** Fráter, faciam ut tú uoles.
Aúctionem hic fáciam et uendam quídquid est. Nunc ínterim
Eámus intro, fráter. **Men. II.** Fiat. **Mes.** Scítin quid ego uós rogo?
Men. I. Quíd? **Mes.** Praeconiúm mi ut detis. **Men. I.** Dábitur. **Mes.** Ergo núnciam 1155
Vís conclamari aúctionem fóre? **Men. I.** Equidem die séptimi.
Mes. Aúctio fiét Menaechmi máne sane séptimi.
Vénibunt seruí, supellex, fúndi et aedes. Ómnia
Vénibunt, quiquí licebunt, praésenti pecúnia.
Vénibit uxór quoque etiam, sí quis emptor uénerit. 1160
Víx credo auctióne tota cápiet quinquagénsies.

Núnc, spectatorés, ualete et nóbis clare applaúdite.

brother, let us return to our native country.

Men. Brother, I shall do as you wish. I will make an auction and sell whatever I have. Now, in the meantime, let us go into the house.

Men. Sos. Very well.

Mes. (*To* MENAECHMUS.) Do you know what I desire of you?

Men. What?

Mes. That you make me auctioneer.

Men. It shall be done.

Mes. Do you wish then that I immediately announce that the auction will take place?

Men. Certainly, a week from to-day. (*The* MENAECHMI *go inside the house.*)

Mes. (*Coming forward.*) There will be an auction of the property of Menaechmus a week from to-day in the forenoon. The slaves, the furniture, the land, the house, will be sold, — everything for what it will bring for cash down. Even his wife also will be sold. I think he will hardly realize fifty hundred thousand sesterces from the entire sale.

Now, spectators, farewell, and applaud us vigorously. (*Exit.*)

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